

O Youth of the Noble Birthright

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Oo, õilsast soost noored

Vend Bradley R. Wilcox
Esimene nõuandja Noorte Meeste üldjuhatuses

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God trusts you, the children of the covenant, to help with His work of bringing all His children safely home to Him.

Jumal usaldab teid, lepingulapsi, et aitade kaasa Tema töös tuua kõik Tema lapsed turvaliselt Tema juurde koju.

Elder Stevenson, this is a conference never to be forgotten.

Our family has always enjoyed a little book called Children's Letters to God. Here are a few:

"Dear God, instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you've got right now?"

"How come you only have ten rules, but our school has millions?"

"Why did you put the tonsils in if you're just going to take them out again?"

Today there isn't time to answer all these questions, but there is another question I often hear from young people that I would like to address. From Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to Thomas, Idaho, the question is the same: "Why? Why must Latter-day Saints live so differently from others?"

I know it's hard to be different—especially when you are young and want so badly for other people to like you. Everyone wants to fit in, and that desire is magnified to unhealthy proportions in today's digital world filled with social media and cyberbullying.

So, with all that pressure, why do Latter-day Saints live so differently? There are many good answers: Because you are a child of God. Because you have been saved for the last days. Because you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.

But those answers don't always set you apart. Everyone is a child of God. Everyone on earth right now was sent here in the latter days. And yet not everyone lives the Word of Wisdom or

Vanem Stevenson, see on konverents, mida ei saa kunagi unustada.

Meie perele on alati meeldinud väike raamat nimega „Laste kirjad Jumalale”. Mõned näited:

„Kallis jumal, selle asemel, et lasta inimestel surra ja luua uusi, miks mitte jätta alles need, kes praegu elavad?”

„Kuidas on Sinul ainult kümme reeglit, aga meie koolil on neid oma miljon?”

„Miks sa andsid meile mandlid, et need lihtsalt uuesti välja opereerida?”

Täna ei ole aega kõigile neile küsimustele vastamiseks, kuid on veel üks küsimus, mida noortelt sageli kuulen, millele tahaksin vastata. Ulaanbaatarist Mongooliast Thomaseni Idaho osariigis on küsimus ikka sama: „Miks? Miks peavad viimse aja pühad elama teistest nii erinevalt?”

Ma tean, et on raske teistest erineda – eriti kui oled noor ja tahad nii väga, et sa teistele meeldiksid. Igaüks tahab kuhugi kuuluda ja see soov on tänapäevases sotsiaalmeedia ja küberkiusamisest tulvil digitaalmaailmas võtnud ebatervislikud mõõtmed.

Mikselavad viimse aja pühad kogu selle surve juures nii erinevalt? Häid vastuseid on palju: sest te olete Jumala lapsed. Sest teid on hoitud viimaste päevade jaoks. Sest te olete Jeesuse Kristuse jüngrid.

Kuid need vastused ei erista teid alati teistest. Igaüks on Jumala laps. Kõik, kes praegu maa peal on, saadeti siia viimastel päevadel. Ja ometi ei ela kõik Tarkuse Sõna või kõlbelse puhtuse seaduse

law of chastity the way you strive to. There are many valiant disciples of Christ who are not members of this Church. But they do not serve missions and perform ordinances in houses of the Lord on behalf of ancestors like you do. There must be more to it—and there is.

Today I would like to focus on an additional reason that has been meaningful in my life. In 1988 a young Apostle named Russell M. Nelson gave an address at Brigham Young University called “Thanks for the Covenant.” In it, then-Elder Nelson explained that when we use our moral agency to make and keep covenants with God, we become heirs of the everlasting covenant God has made with our forebearers in every dispensation. Said another way, we become “children of the covenant.” That sets us apart. That gives us access to the same blessings our forefathers and foremothers received, including a birthright.

Birthright! You may have heard that word. We even sing hymns about it: “O youth of the noble birthright, carry on, carry on, carry on!” It’s a compelling word. But what does it mean?

In Old Testament times if a father passed away, his birthright son was responsible for the care of his mother and sisters. His brothers received their inheritance and left to make their way in the world, but the birthright son did not go anywhere. He would marry and have his own family, but he would stay until the end of his days to govern the affairs of his father’s estate. Because of this added responsibility, he was given an added measure of the inheritance. Was leading and caring for others too much to ask? Not when you consider the additional inheritance he was given.

Today we are not talking about your birth order in earthly families or Old Testament gender roles. We are talking about the inheritance you receive as a joint heir with Christ because of the covenant relationship you have chosen to enter with Him and your Father in Heaven. Is it too much for God to expect you to live differently than His other children so you can better lead and serve them? Not when you consider the blessings—both temporal and spiritual—that you have been given.

Does your birthright mean you are better than others? No, but it does mean you are expected to help others be better. Does your birthright mean you are chosen? Yes, but not chosen to rule

järgi nii, nagu teie teha püüate. On palju Kristuse vapraid jüngreid, kes ei ole selle Kiriku liikmed. Kuid nad ei teeni misjonil ega tee esivanemate nimel talitusi Issanda kojas nagu teie. Selleks peab olema ja ka on parem põhjus.

Täna tahaksin keskenduda lisapõhjusele, mis on olnud minu elus tähendusrikas. Aastal 1988 pidas noor apostel nimega Russell M. Nelson Brigham Youngi ülikoolis kõne „Suur tänu lepingu eest”. Selles kõnes selgitas tollane vanem Nelson, et kui me kasutame oma moraalselt valikuvabadust Jumalaga lepingute sõlmimiseks ja nendest kinnipidamiseks, saame pärijateks igavesele lepingule, mille Jumal on igal evangeeliumi ajajärgul meie esivanematega sõlminud. Teisisõnu öeldes saavad meist „lepingu lapsed”. See eristab meid teistest. See annab meile juurdepääsu samadele õnnistustele, mida said meie esiisad ja esiemad, sealhulgas sünniõigus.

Sünniõigus! Võib-olla olete seda sõna kuulnud. Laulame selle kohta isegi kirikulaulu: „Oo, õilsast soost noor, jätkate teed, jätkate teed, jätkate teed!” See on kaalukas sõna. Aga mida see tähendab?

Vana Testamendi ajal, kui isa suri, vastutas tema esmasündinud poeg oma ema ja õdede eest hoolitsemise eest. Tema vennad said kätte oma osa pärandist ja lahkusid, et oma elu rajada, kuid esmasündinud poeg ei läinud kuhugi. Ta abiellus ja lõi oma pere, kuid ta jäi oma elupäevade lõpuni valitsema oma isa pärandvara üle. Selle lisavastutuse tõttu määrati talle suurem osa pärandist. Kas teiste eest hoolitsemine ja nende juhtimine oli liiga palju nõutud? Ei olnud, kui arvestada talle antud suuremat osa pärandist.

Täna ei räägi me teie sünnijärjekorrast maistes peredes ega Vana Testamendi aegsetest soorollidest. Me räägime pärandist, mille saate Kristuse kaaspärijatenalepingusuhte tõttu, mille olete otsustanud sõlmida Tema ja oma Taevase Isaga. Kas Jumalast on liiga palju oodata, et te elaksite teisiti kui Tema teised lapsed, et saaksite neid paremini juhtida ja teenida? Ei ole, kui arvestada õnnistusi – nii ajalikke kui vaimseid –, mis teile on antud.

Kas teie sünniõigus tähendab, et olete teistest parem? Ei, aga see tähendab, et teilt oodatakse, et aitate teistel paremaks saada. Kas teie sünniõigus tähendab, et olete väljavalitud? Jah, kuid teid pole

over others; you are chosen to serve them. Is your birthright evidence of God's love? Yes, but more important, it is evidence of His trust.

It is one thing to be loved and another thing entirely to be trusted. In the For the Strength of Youthguide, we read: "Your Father in Heaven trusts you. He has given you great blessings, including the fulness of the gospel and sacred ordinances and covenants that bind you to Him and bring His power into your life. With those blessings comes added responsibility. He knows you can make a difference in the world, and that requires, in many cases, being different from the world."

Our mortal experience could be compared to a cruise ship on which God has sent all His children as they journey from one shore to another. The voyage is filled with opportunities to learn, grow, be happy, and progress, but it is also full of dangers. God loves all His children and is concerned about their welfare. He does not want to lose any of them, so He invites those who are willing to become members of His crew—that's you. Because of your choice to make and keep covenants, He offers you His trust. He trusts you to be different, peculiar, and set apart because of the important work He trusts you to do.

Think of it! God trusts you—of all the people on the earth, the children of the covenant, His crew members—to help with His work of bringing all His children safely home to Him. No wonder President Brigham Young once said, "All the angels in heaven are looking at this little handful of people."

When you look around on this cruise ship called earth, you might see other people sitting in lounge chairs drinking, gambling in casinos, wearing clothing that is too revealing, scrolling endlessly on cell phones, and wasting too much time playing electronic games. But instead of wondering, "Why can't I do that?," you can remember that you are not an ordinary passenger. You are a member of the crew. You have responsibilities that passengers do not have. As Sister Ardeth Kapp once said, "You can't be a life[guard] if you look like all the other swimmers on the beach."

And before you become discouraged by all the extra obligations, please remember that crew members receive something the other passengers

valitud teiste üle valitsema, olete valitud neid teenima. Kas teie sünnioigus on tõend Jumala armastusest? Jah, kuid mis veelgi olulisem, see on tõend Tema usaldusest.

Üks asi on olla armastatud ja hoopis teine asi on, kui teid usaldatakse. Juhendist „Sulle, noor” loeme: „Meie Taevane Isa usaldab sind. Ta on andnud sulle suuri õnnistusi, sealhulgas evangeeliumi täiuse ning pühad talitused ja lepingud, mis seovad sind Temaga ja toovad Tema väe sinu ellu. Nende õnnistustega kaasneb täiendav vastutus. Ta teab, et sa suudad maailma paremaks muuta, ja selleks on paljudel juhtudel vaja, et sa maailmast erined.”

Meie surelikku kogemust võiks võrrelda reisilaevaga, millele Jumal on saatnud kõik oma lapsed, kui nad sõidavad ühelt kaldalt teisele. Reis on täis võimalusi õppida, kasvada, olla õnnelik ja areneda, kuid see on täis ka ohte. Jumal armastab kõiki oma lapsi ja tunneb muret nende heaolu pärast. Ta ei taha neist kedagi kaotada, seega kutsub Ta neid, kes on nõus, astuma Tema meeskonna liikmeteks – need olete teie. Kuna olete otsustanud sõlmida lepinguid ja neist kinni pidada, paneb Tema oma usalduse teie peale. Ta usaldab, et olete teistsugused, omapärased ja erilised selle tähtsa töö tõttu, mille Ta on teile teha usaldanud.

Mõelge sellele! Kõigist inimestest maa peal usaldab Jumal teid, lepingulapsi, Tema meeskonnaliikmeid, et aitate kaasa Tema töös tuua kõik Tema lapsed turvaliselt Tema juurde koju. Pole ime, et president Brigham Young ütles kord: „Kõik inglid taevast vaatavad seda väikest käputäit inimesi.”

Kui vaatate ringi sellel reisilaeval nimega Maa, võite näha teisi inimesi, kes istuvad lamamistoolidel ja joovad, mängivad kasiinodes hasartmänge, kannavad liiga paljastavaid riideid, kerivad lõputult mobiiltelefonides ning raiskavad liiga palju aega videomängude mängimisele. Kuid selle asemel, et mõelda: „Miks minaseda teha ei tohi?,” võiksite meeles pidada, et teie pole tavaline reisija. Teie olete meeskonnaliige. Teil on kohustused, mida reisijatel ei ole. Nagu öde Ardeth Kapp kunagi ütles: „Sa ei saa olla vetelpäästja, kui näed välja nagu kõik teised rannas ujujad.”

Ja enne, kui kõik lisakohustused teid heidutavad, pidage meeles, et meeskonnaliikmed saavad midagi, mida teised reisijad ei saa: hüvitist. Va-

do not: compensation. Elder Neil L. Andersen has said, "There is a compensatory spiritual power for the righteous," including "greater assurance, greater confirmation, and greater confidence." - Like Abraham of old, you receive greater happiness and peace, greater righteousness, and greater knowledge. Your compensation is not merely a mansion in heaven and streets paved with gold. It would be easy for Heavenly Father to simply give you all that He has. His desire is to help you become all that He is. Thus, your commitments demand more of you because that is how God is making more of you.

It's "a lot to ask of anyone, but you're not just anyone"! You are youth of the noble birthright. Your covenant relationship with God and Jesus Christ is a relationship of love and trust in which you have access to a greater measure of Their grace—Their divine assistance, endowment of strength, and enabling power. That power is not just wishful thinking, a lucky charm, or self-fulfilling prophecy. It is real.

As you fulfill your birthright responsibilities, you are never alone. The Lord of the vineyard labors with you. You are working hand in hand with Jesus Christ. With each new covenant—and as your relationship with Him deepens—you hold each other tighter and tighter until you are firmly clasped together. In that sacred symbol of His grace, you will find both the desire and the strength to live exactly how the Savior lived—differently from the world. You've got this because Jesus Christ has got you!

In 2 Nephi 2:6 we read, "Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the Holy Messiah; for he is full of grace and truth." Because He is full of truth, He sees you as you really are—flaws, weaknesses, regrets, and all. Because He is full of grace, He sees you as you really can be. He meets you where you are and helps you repent and improve, overcome and become.

"O youth of the noble birthright, carry on, carry on, carry on!" I testify that you are loved—and you are trusted—today, in 20 years, and forever. Don't sell your birthright for a mess of pottage. Don't trade everything for nothing. Don't let the world change you when you were born to change the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

nem Neil L. Andersen on öelnud: „Õigemeelsetele tasutakse vaimse väega”, sealhulgas „suurema kindlustunde ja suurema otsustavuse ja suurema enesekindlusega”. Nagu muistne Aabraham, saate suuremat õnne ja rahu, suuremat õigemeelsust ja suuremat teadmist. Teie hüvitis ei ole ainult eluase taevas ja kullaga sillutatud tänavad. Taevasel Isal oleks lihtne anda teile kõik, mis Temal on. Tema soov on aidata teil saada selliseks, nagu Tema on. Seega nõuavad teie kohustused teilt rohkem, kuna Jumal muudab teid kellekski suuremaks.

Seda on „kelleltki palju palutud, aga teie pole lihtsalt keegi"! Olete õilsast soost noored. Teie lepingusuhe Jumala ja Jeesuse Kristusega on armastuse ja usaldussuhe, milles teil on juurdepääs suuremal määral nende armule – nende jumalikule abile, jõule ja suutlikuks tegevale väele. See vägi ei ole lihtsalt soovmõtlemine, amulett või isetäituv ennustus. See ontõeline.

Kui täidate oma sünnijärgseid kohustusi, ei ole te kunagi ükski. Viinamäe Isand töötab koos teiega. Te töötate käsikäes Jeesuse Kristusega. Iga uue lepinguga – ja sedamööda, kuidas teie suhe Temaga süveneb – hoiate üksteist üha tugevalt, kuni olete tugevalt üksteise külge kinnitatud. Sellest Tema armu pühast sümbolist leiame nii soovi kui ka jõudu elada täpselt nii, nagu elas Päästja – maailmast erinedes. Te suudate seda, sest Jeesus Kristus on teiega!

Salmis 2. Nefi 2:6 loeme: „Mispärast, lunastus tuleb Pühas Messias ja tema kaudu, sest tema on täis armu ja tõde.” Kuna Ta on täis tõde, näeb Ta teid sellistena, nagu te tegelikult olete – näeb kõiki teie puudusi, nõrkusi, kahetsust ja kõike. Kuna Ta on täis armu, näeb Ta teid sellistena, nagu te tegelikult olla saate. Ta kohtub teiega seal, kus te olete, ning aitab teil meelt parandada ja täiustada, ületada raskused ja paremaks saada.

„Oo, õilsast soost noor, jätkake teed, jätkake teed, jätkake teed!” Ma tunnistan, et teid armastatakse – ja teid usaldatakse – täna, 20 aasta pärast ja igavesti. Ärge müüge oma esmasünnioigust läätseleeme eest. Ärge vahetage kõike mittemilegi vastu. Ärge laske maailmal end muuta, kuna te sündisite selleks, et muuta maailma. Jeesuse Kristuse nimel, aamen.