

Following Christ

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Panangsurot ken ni Cristo

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Umuna a Mammagbaga iti Umuna a Panguluen

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As followers of Christ, we teach and testify of Jesus Christ, our Perfect Role Model. So let us follow Him by forgoing contention.

This year millions have been inspired by the gospel study plan known by the Savior's invitation "Come, follow me." Following Christ is not a casual or occasional practice. It is a continuous commitment and way of life that should guide us at all times and in all places. His teachings and His example define the path for every disciple of Jesus Christ. And all are invited to this path, for He invites all to come unto Him, "black and white, bond and free, male and female; ... and all are alike unto God."

I.

The first step in following Christ is to obey what He defined as "the great commandment in the law":

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

"This is the first and great commandment.

"And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The commandments of God provide the guiding and steadying force in our lives. Our experiences in mortality are like the little boy and his father flying a kite on a windy day. As the kite rose higher, the winds caused it to tug

Kas pasurot ni Cristo, isuro ken paneknekanayo ni Jesucristo, ti Perpekto a Pagwadantayo. Isu a surotentayo Isuna babaen ti panangtallikud iti panagsusupiat.

Itoy a tawen minilion ti naparegta iti plano ti panagadal iti ebanghelio kas ti awis ti Mangisalan nga "Umaykayo, Sumurot Kaniak." Saan a kasual wenno sagpaminsan nga aramid ti panangsurot ken ni Cristo. Agtultuloy a panagkumit ken wagas a biag a nasken a kanayon a mangiwanwan kadayo iti amin a panawen ken lugar. Dagiti pannursurona ken pagwadanna ti mangiladawan iti dana iti tunggal disipulo ni Jesucristo. Ket maawis ti amin iti daytoy a dana, gapu ta awisenna ti amin nga umasideg Kenkuana, "nangisit ken puraw, adipen ken nawaya, lalaki ken babai; ... ken agpapada ti amin iti Dios."

I.

Panagtulnog ti umuna nga addang iti panangsurot ken ni Cristo nga inladawanna a kas "ti naindaklan a bilin iti linteg":

"Ayatem ti Apo a Diosmo iti amin a pusom, ken iti amin a kararuam, ken iti amin a panunotmo.

"Daytoy ti umuna ken kangrunaan a bilin.

"Ket ti maikadua umasping iti umuna, Ayatem ti padam a tao a kas iti bagim.

"Kadagitoy dua a bilin agpannuray ti amin a linteg ken dagiti propeta."

Dagiti bilin ti Dios ti mangiwanwan ken mangpatibker iti biagtayo. Dagiti padastayo iti mortalidad ket kas iti panagpatayab iti ullaw ti ubing ken ni amana iti naangin nga aldaw. Bayat nga agpangato ti ullaw, ti angin ti nangtignay a

on the connecting string in the little boy's hand. Inexperienced with the force of mortal winds, he proposed to cut the string so the kite could rise higher. His wise father counseled no, explaining that the string is what holds the kite in place against mortal winds. If we lose our hold on the string, the kite will not rise higher. It will be carried about by these winds and inevitably crash to the earth.

That essential string represents the covenants that connect us to God, our Heavenly Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. As we honor those covenants by keeping Their commandments and following Their plan of redemption, Their promised blessings enable us to soar to celestial heights.

The Book of Mormon frequently declares that Christ is “the light of the world.” During His appearance to the Nephites, the risen Lord explained that teaching by telling them: “I have set an example for you.” “I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do.” He is our role model. We learn what He has said and done by studying the scriptures and following prophetic teachings, as President Russell M. Nelson has urged us to do. In the ordinance of the sacrament, we covenant each Sabbath day that we will “always remember him and keep his commandments.”

II.

In the Book of Mormon, the Lord gave us the fundamentals in what He called “the doctrine of Christ.” These are faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, enduring to the end, and becoming as a little child, which means to trust the Lord and submit to all He requires of us.

The Lord's commandments are of two types: permanent, like the doctrine of Christ, and temporary. Temporary commandments are those necessary for the needs of the Lord's Church or the faithful in temporary circumstances, but to be set aside when the need has passed. An example of temporary commandments are the Lord's directions to the early leadership of the Church to move the Saints from New York to Ohio, to Missouri, and to Illinois and finally to lead the pioneer exodus to the Intermountain West.

mangguyod iti tali iti ima ti ubing. Gapu ta awan ti padasna iti mortal nga angin, insingasingna a putden ti tali tapno agpangato pay ti ullaw. Imbalakad ti masirib nga amana a saan, impalawagna a ti tali ti mangtengtengngel iti ullaw iti lugarna kontra iti mortal nga angin. No saantay-on a matengngel ti tali, saanen nga agpangato ti ullaw. Yalla-alla dagitoy nga angin ket di maliklikan a matnag iti daga.

Dayta a napateg a tali ti mangibagi kadagiti katulagan a mangikonekta kadatayo iti Dios, ti Nailangitan nga Amatayo, ken ti Anakna a ni Jesucristo. Bayat ti panangdayawtayo kadagita a katulagan babaen ti panangtungpaltayo ken panangsurot iti planoda ti pannakasubbot, dagiti naikari a bendisionda ti mangtulog tapno agpangatotayo iti celestial a tun-oyentayo.

Masansan nga ipakdaar ti Libro ni Mormon a ni Cristo ti “silaw ti lubong.” Bayat ti panagparangna kadagiti Nephite, inlawlawag ti nagungar nga Apo dayta a pannursuro kadakuada: “Nangaramidak iti pagulidananyo.” “Siak ti silaw nga itag-ayyo—dayta a naimatanganyon nga inaramidko.” Isu ti pagwadantayo. Masursurotayo no ania ti imbaga ken inaramidna babaen ti panagadal iti scripture ken panangsurot kadagiti naimpadtuan a pannursuro, kas inyawis ni Presidente Russell M. Nelson nga aramidantayo. Iti ordinansa ti sakramento, makitulagtayo iti aldaw ti Sabbath a “kanayon a laglagipen, ken tungpalen dagiti bilinna.”

II.

Iti Libro ni Mormon, inted kadatayo ti Apo dagiti kangrunaan a banag nga inawaganna a “doktrina ni Cristo.” Dagitoy ti pammati ken ni Apo Jesucristo, panagbabawi, panagbuniag, panangawat iti sagut ti Espiritu Santo, panagibatur, ken agbalin a kas bassit nga ubing, a kaipapananna ti panagtalek iti Apo ken panagpasakup iti amin a kalikagumanna kadatayo.

Dua ti kita dagiti bilin ti Apo: permanente wenno manayon, kas iti doktrina ni Cristo, ken temporario wenno saan nga agpaut. Dagiti temporario a bilin ket dagiti nasken para iti kasapulan ti Simbaan ti Apo wenno dagiti matalek iti temporario a kasasaad, ngem mailasin no saanen a kasapulan. Maysa a pagarigan dagiti temporario a bilin ket dagiti pammilin ti Apo iti nagkauna a panangidaulo iti Simbaan tapno mayakar dagiti Santo iti New York nga agturong iti Ohio, iti Missouri, iti Illinois, ken iti naudi a panagdaliasat

Though only temporary, when still in force these commandments were given to be obeyed.

Some permanent commandments have taken considerable time to be generally observed. For example, President Lorenzo Snow's famous sermon on the law of tithing emphasized a commandment given earlier but not yet generally observed by Church members. It needed reemphasis in the circumstances then faced by the Church and its members. Recent examples of reemphases have also been needed because of current circumstances faced by Latter-day Saints or the Church. These include the proclamation on the family, issued by President Gordon B. Hinckley a generation ago, and President Russell M. Nelson's recent call for the Church to be known by its revealed name, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

III.

Another of our Savior's teachings seems to require reemphasis in the circumstances of our day.

This is a time of many harsh and hurtful words in public communications and sometimes even in our families. Sharp differences on issues of public policy often result in actions of hostility—even hatred—in public and personal relationships. This atmosphere of enmity sometimes even paralyzes capacities for lawmaking on matters of importance where most citizens see an urgent need for some action in the public interest.

What should followers of Christ teach and do in this time of toxic communications? What were His teachings and examples?

It is significant that among the first principles Jesus taught when He appeared to the Nephites was to avoid contention. While He taught this in the context of disputes over religious doctrine, the reasons He gave clearly apply to communications and relationships in politics, public policy, and family relationships. Jesus taught:

dagiti pioneer iti Intermountain West. Nupay temporario laeng, idi maipakat pay laeng dagitoy a bilin ket naitedda tapno matungpal.

Sumagmamano kadagiti permanente a bilin ti nakabaybayagen a gagangay a masursurot. Kas pagarigan, ti nalatak a sermon ni Presidente Lorenzo Snow maipapan iti linteg ti apagkapullo ket nangyunay-unay iti bilin a naited idi damo ngem saan pay a sapasap a natungpal dagiti miembro ti Simbaan. Kasapulan ti pannakaipaganetgetna manen kadagiti kasasaad a sangsanguen idi ti Simbaan ken dagiti miembrona. Kasapulan met dagiti nabiit pay a pagarigan a maipaganetget manen gapu iti agdama a kasasaad a sangsanguen dagiti Santo wenno ti Simbaan. Karaman itoy ti waragawag ti kaamaan iti nga impaulog ni Presidente Gordon B. Hinckley, maysa a henerasion ti napalabasen, ken ti nabiit pay a kiddaw ni Presidente Russel M. Nelson para iti pannakaam-ammo ti Simbaan babaen ti naipalgak a naganna, Ti Simbaan ni Jesucristo dagiti Santo iti Ud-udina nga Aldaw.

III.

Ti sabali pay kadagiti pannursuro ti Mangisalakantayo a kasla agkasapulan a mayunay-unay manen kadagiti kasasaad ti panawentayo.

Daytoy ti panawen ti adu a nagubsang ken makapasakit a balikas kadagiti pannakisarsarita iti publiko ken no dadduma uray pay kadagiti pamilyatayo. Ti saan a panagkikinnaawatan kadagiti isyu iti pagannurotan iti publiko ket agresulta iti panagbibinnusor—uray iti ginnura—kadagiti relasion iti publiko ken personal. Daytoy a kasasaad ti panagbibinnusor no dadduma ket mangparalisado pay ketdi kadagiti kapasidad para iti panagaramid ti linteg kadagiti banag a napateg a pakakitaan ti kaaduan nga umili ti naganat a panagkasapulan iti sumagmamano a panagtignay para iti pagimbagan ti publiko.

Ania ti rumbeng nga isuro ken aramiden dagiti pasurot ni Cristo iti daytoy a panawen ti makasabidong a komunikasion? Ania dagiti pannursuro ken pagwadanna?

Napateg a karaman iti immuna a pagbatayan nga insuro ni Jesus idi nagparang Isuna kadagiti Nephite ket ti panangliklik iti panagsusupiat. Nupay insurona daytoy iti konteksto dagiti panagsusupiat iti doktrina ti relihion, dagiti rason nga intedna ket nalawag a maaramat kadagiti komunikasion ken relasion iti politika, pagan-

“He that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another.

“Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger, one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.”

In His remaining ministry among the Nephites, Jesus taught other commandments closely related to His prohibition of contention. We know from the Bible that He had previously taught each of these in His great Sermon on the Mount, usually in precisely the same language He later used with the Nephites. I will quote the familiar Bible language:

“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

This is one of Christ’s best-known commandments—most revolutionary and most difficult to follow. Yet it is a most fundamental part of His invitation for all to follow Him. As President David O. McKay taught, “There is no better way to manifest love for God than to show an unselfish love for one’s fellowmen.”

Here is another fundamental teaching by Him who is our role model: “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

Peacemakers! How it would change personal relationships if followers of Christ would forgo harsh and hurtful words in all their communications.

In general conference last year, President Russell M. Nelson gave us these challenges:

“One of the easiest ways to identify a true follower of Jesus Christ is how compassionately that person treats other people. ...

“... True disciples of Jesus Christ are peacemakers.

“... One of the best ways we can honor the Savior is to become a peacemaker.”

Concluding his teachings: “Contention is a

nurotan iti publiko, ken relasion iti familia.

Insuro ni Jesus:

“Saanko a kukua ti addaan espiritu ti pan-nakisuppiat, ngem kukua ti sairo, nga ama ti pannakisuppiat, ket kiburennan ti puso dagiti tao tapno pagpungtotenna ti tunggal maysa.

“Adtoy, saan a daytoy ti doktrinak, ti mangk-ibur iti puso ti tao tapno agpungtot, a maibusor iti sabali; ngem daytoy ti doktrina, a rumbeng a maikkat dagiti kasta a banag.”

Iti naudi a panagministrana kadagiti Nephite, insuro ni Jesus ti dadduma pay a bilin a nainaig iti panangiparitna iti panagsusupiat. Ammotayo manipud iti Biblia nga insurona ti tunggal maysa kadagitoy iti naindaklan a Sermonna iti Bantay, a kas iti mismo a pagsasao nga inusarna idi agangay kadagiti Nephite. Adawek ti pamilyar a pagsasao ti Biblia:

“Ayatenyo dagiti kabusoryo, ket bendisionan-yo ida a mangilunod kadakayo, agaramidkayo iti nasayaat kadagiti gumura kadakayo, ket ikararanganyo dagiti manguy-uyaw ken mangidadanes kadakayo.”

Maysa daytoy kadagiti pagaammo unay a bilin ni Cristo—naidumduma unay ken karirigatan a surotan. Ngem dayta ti kangrunaan a paset ti awisna iti amin nga agtulnog kenkuana. Kas insuro ni Presidente David O. McKay, “Awanen ti nasaysayaat a wagas a panangipakita iti ayat iti Dios ngem ti panangipakita iti di managimbubukod nga ayat iti padatayo a tao.”

Adtoy ti sabali pay a kangrunaan a pannursurona nga isu ti pagwadaytoy: “Nagasat amin dagiti mamagkakappia, ta managanandanto nga annak ti Dios.”

Dagiti mamagkakappia! No kasano a balbaliwanna dagiti personal a relasion no tallikudan dagiti pasurot ni Cristo dagiti naulpit ken makasair a balikas iti amin a komunikasionda.

Iti sapaap a komperensia idi napan a tawen, inted kadatayo ni Presidente Russell M. Nelson dagitoy a karit:

“Maysa kadagiti kalakaan a wagas a pangbigbig iti maysa apudno a pasurotni Jesucristo ket no kasano ti panangrato dayta a tao ti dadduma a tao. ...

“... Dagiti pudno a disipulo ni Jesucristo ket mamagkakappia.

“... Maysa kadagiti kapintasan a wagas a madayawtayo ti Mangisalikan ket ti panagbalintayo a mamagkakappia. ...

Iti panangigibusna kadagiti pannursurona:

choice. Peacemaking is a choice. You have your agency to choose contention or reconciliation. I urge you to choose to be a peacemaker, now and always.”

Potential adversaries should begin their discussions by identifying common ground on which all agree.

To follow our Perfect Role Model and His prophet, we need to practice what is popularly known as the Golden Rule: “All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” We need to love and do good to all. We need to avoid contention and be peacemakers in all our communications. This does not mean to compromise our principles and priorities but to cease harshly attacking others for theirs. That is what our Perfect Role Model did in His ministry. That is the example He set for us as He invited us to follow Him.

In this conference four years ago, President Nelson gave us a prophetic challenge for our own day:

“Are you willing to let God prevail in your life? Are you willing to let God be the most important influence in your life? Will you allow His words, His commandments, and His covenants to influence what you do each day? Will you allow His voice to take priority over any other?”

As followers of Christ, we teach and testify of Jesus Christ, our Perfect Role Model. So let us follow Him by forgoing contention. As we pursue our preferred policies in public actions, let us qualify for His blessings by using the language and methods of peacemakers. In our families and other personal relationships, let us avoid what is harsh and hateful. Let us seek to be holy, like our Savior, in whose holy name I testify and invoke His blessing to help us be Saints. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

“Maysa a pili ti panagsusupiat. Maysa a pili ti agbalin a mamagkappia. Adda karbenganyo a mangpili iti panagsusupiat wenno pannakikappia. Allukoyenkayo apilienyoti agbalin a mamagkappia, ita ken kanayon.”

Rugian koma dagiti mabalin a kabusor dagiti paglilinnawaganda babaen ti panangilasinda iti pagkaykaysaanda a banag a pagkikinnaawatan ti amin.

Tapno masurottayo ti Naan-anay a Pagwadantayo ken ti propetana, kasapulan nga aramidentayo ti nalatak a maam-ammo a ti Nabalitokan a Pagannurotan: “Aramidenyo kadagiti tao ti amin a banag a kayatyo nga aramidenda kadakayo: ta daytoy ti integ ken dagiti propeta.” Masapul nga ayaten ken aramidentayo ti naimbag iti amin. Nasken a liklikantayo ti panagsusupiat ken agbalintayo a mannakikappia iti amin a komunikasiontayon. Saanna kayat a sawen nga ikompromiso dagiti prinsipio ken prioridadtayon no di ket isardengtayo ti naulpit a panangraut iti sabsabali gapu iti prinsipioda. Dayta ti inaramid ti Naan-anay a Pagwadantayo iti panagministrona. Dayta ti pagwadan nga impakitana kadatayo bayat ti panangawisna kadatayo a sumurot Kenkuana.

Itay a komperensia uppat a tawenen ti napalabas, inted kadatayo ni Presidente Nelson ti naimpadtuan a karit para iti bukodtayo a panawen:

“Situtulokkayokadi a mangbay-an nga agballigi ti Dios iti biagyo? Situtulokkayokadi a mangpabalin iti Dios a kapatgan nga impluensia iti biagyo? Palugodanyo kadi dagiti balikasna, bilinna, ken katulaganna a mangimpluensia iti aramidenyo iti inaldaw? Ipalubosyo kadi nga ipangpangruna ti timekna ngem iti aniaman a dadduma pay?”

Kas pasurot ni Cristo, isuro ken paneknekan-tayo ni Jesucristo, ti Naan-anay a Pagwadantayo. Isu a surotentayo Isuna babaen ti panangtallikud iti panagsusupiat. Iti panangsurottayo kadagiti kayattayo a pagannurotan kadagiti tignaytayon iti publiko, ikagumaantayo ti umawat kadagiti bendisionna babaen iti pagsasao ken wagas dagiti mannakikappia. Iti pamiliatayo ken iti dadduma a personal a relasiontayon, liklikantayo ti kinaranggas ken gura. Ikagumaantayo ti agbalin a nasantuan, kas iti Mangisalakantayo, nga iti nasantuan a naganna paneknekak ken kiddawek ti bendisionna a tumulong kadatayo nga agbalin a Santo. Iti nagan ni Jesucristo, amen.