

“By This All Will Know That You Are My Disciples”

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“O Le Mea Lea e Iloa ai e Tagata Uma Lava o O’u Soo Outou”

Saunia e Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf
O Le Korama a Aposetolo e Toasefululua

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Our love for God and His children is a powerful testimony to the world that this is truly the Savior’s Church.

Many years ago Sister Uchtdorf and I were traveling through southern Germany. It was just before Easter, and we invited a good friend, who was not a member of the Church, to join us in our Sunday worship service. We loved this dear friend, so it was normal and natural to share with her how we felt about the Savior and His Church and to invite her to come and see! She accepted the invitation and joined us at the meetings of a nearby branch.

If you have ever brought a friend to church for the first time, you can probably relate to the way I felt that Sunday morning. I wanted everything to go perfectly. Our friend was a highly educated, spiritual person. I earnestly hoped the meetings of this branch would make a good impression on her and represent the Church well.

The branch met in some rented rooms on the second floor of a grocery store. To get there, we had to take the stairs at the back of the building, passing the strong aromas from goods stored there.

As the sacrament meeting began, I thought about my friend experiencing this for the first time, and I couldn’t help but notice things that made me cringe a little. The singing, for example, didn’t exactly sound like the Tabernacle Choir. Restless, noisy children could be heard during the sacrament. The speakers did their best, but they were not skilled at public speaking. I sat uncomfortably through the meeting, hoping that maybe Sunday School would be better.

O lo tatou alofa mo le Atua ma Ana fanau o se molimau mamana lea i le lalolagi o le Ekalesia moni lava lenei a le Faaola.

E tele o tausaga ua mavae, sa ma malaga ai ma Sister Uchtdorf i le itu i saute o Siamani. Toeitiiti oo i le Eseta, ma sa ma valaaulia ai se uo lelei, e le o se tagata o le Ekalesia matou te auai i le tatou sauniga tapuai o le Aso Sa. Sa ma alolofa i lenei uo pele, o lea sa o se mea fua lava ma masani ai le faasoa atu ia te ia o o ma lagona e uiga i le Faaola ma Lana Ekalesia ma ia valaaulia o ia e sau ma vaai! Sa ia taliaina le valaaulia ma matou auai ai i sauniga i se paranesi na lata ane.

Afai na e aumaia se uo i le lotu mo le taimi muamua lava, masalo e mafai ona e fesootai lelei i le ala sa ou lagonaina i lena taeao o le Aso Sa. Sa ou manao ia atoatoa mea uma. O le ma uo o se tagata e maua luga le aotauina ma le faaleagaga. Sa ou faamoemoe ma le naunautai o le a faia e sauniga a lenei paranesi se uunaiga lelei ia te ia ma faailoa lelei atu le Ekalesia.

Sa lolotu le paranesi i ni potu mautotogi i le fogafale lua o se faleoloa tele. Ina ia oo atu iina, sa ao ia i matou ona ui atu i faasitepu i le pito i tua o le fale, ma pasia manogi malolosi mai oloa o loo teuina ai iina.

Ina ua amata le lotu faamanatuga, sa ou mafaufau i la’u uo i lona aafiaga i lenei mea mo le taimi muamua, ma sa le mafai ona ou le matauina ni mea sa fai ai si o’u lē manifo lelei teisi. O viiga, mo se faataitaiga, sa le’i pei o le Aufaipese a le Tapeneko. O tamaiti lē malolo ma pisapisao na lagonaina i le taimi o le faamanatuga. Sa fai e failauga le mea sili sa latou mafaia, ae sa le’i i ai ni o latou tomai faafailauga. Sa ou nofo ma le lē to’amalie i le lotu atoa, ma le faamoemoe atonu o

It wasn't.

All morning I worried about what our friend must think of this church we had taken her to.

Afterward, as we drove home, I turned to talk to our friend. I wanted to explain that this was just one small branch and it didn't really represent the Church as a whole. But before I could say a word, she spoke up.

"That was beautiful," she said.

I was speechless.

She continued, "I'm so impressed with how people treat each other in your church. They all seem to come from different backgrounds, and yet it's clear that they genuinely love each other. This is what I imagine Christ wanted His Church to be like."

Well, I quickly repented of my judgmental attitude. I had wanted picture-perfect meetings to impress my friend. But what the members of this branch had achieved was a heart-perfect spirit of love, kindness, patience, and compassion.

That Faith Might Increase in the Earth

My dear brothers and sisters, my dear friends, I love The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is the Savior's true and living Church, and it teaches the restored fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. His priesthood power and authority reside here. Jesus Christ leads this Church personally, through servants He has called and authorized, and by a living prophet, even President Russell M. Nelson. The Savior has given the Latter-day Saints a unique mission to gather God's children and prepare the world for the Savior's Second Coming. I bear my witness that all of this is true.

But it's important to remember that when most people experience the Church of Jesus Christ for the first time, they aren't thinking about priesthood authority or ordinances or the gathering of Israel. What they're likely to notice, above all else, is how they feel when they're with us and how we treat each other.

le a lelei atu le Aoga Sa.

Ae leai.

Sa ou popole i le taeao atoa pe o le a se manatu a le ma uo e uiga i lenei ekalesia na ma aumai i ai o ia.

Mulimuli ane, a o matou toefoi atu i le fale, sa ou liliu atu e talanoa i le ma uo. Sa ou fia faamalamalama i ai o lenei paranesi ua na o se tama'i paranesi ma sa le'i faailoaina moni ai le Ekalesia aoao. Ae a o le'i mafai ona ou fai atu se upu, sa ia saunoa.

"Sa matagofie [le lotu]," sa ia fai mai ai.

Sa ou lē magagana.

Sa ia faaauau, "Ua matua faagaetia lava a'u i le auala e taulima ai e tagata le tasi ma le isi i le tou lotu. E foliga mai e o mai i latou uma mai ni talaaga eseese [o le olaga], ae ua manino lava lo latou alolofa faamaoni i le tasi ma le isi. O le mea lea ou te mafaufau sa manao i ai Keriso ia foliga i ai Lana Ekalesia."

Ia, sa vave lava ona ou salamo i o'u uiga faamasinosino. Sa ou manao i ni sauniga matua atoatoa le faiga e faagaetia ai la'u uo. Ae o le mea na ausia e le au paia o lenei paranesi o se agaga o le loto-atoa o le alofa, agalelei, onosai, ma le mutimutialofa.

Ina Ia Mafai Ona Faateleina o le Faatuatua i le Lalolagi

O'u uso e ma tuafafine pele, uo pele, ou te alofa i Le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai. O le Ekalesia moni ma le ola a le Faaola, ma na te aoaoina le atoaga toefuataiina o le talalelei a Iesu Keriso. O Lona mana ma le pule o le perisitua ua i ai iinei. E taitai e Iesu Keriso lava Ia lenei Ekalesia, e ala i auauna Na te valaauina ma faatagaina, ma e ala i se perofeta soifua, o Peresitene Russell M. Nelson lea. Ua tuuina mai e le Faaola i le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai se misiona tulagaese e faapotopoto le fanau a le Atua ma saunia le lalolagi mo le Afio Mai Faalua o le Faaola. Ou te tuuina atu la'u molimau o mea uma nei e moni.

Ae e taua le manatuaina pe a oo le toatele o tagata i se aafiaga mo le taimi muamua o le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso, latou te le o mafaufau i le pule o le perisitua po o ni sauniga po o le faapotopotoina o Isaraelu. O le mea e mautinoa latou te matauina, i lo isi mea uma, o le auala latou te lagonaina pe a latou faatasi ma i tatou ma le auala tatou te taulimaina ai le tasi ma le isi.

“Love one another,” Jesus said. “By this all will know that you are My disciples.” Very often, a person’s first testimony of Jesus Christ comes when he or she feels love among disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Savior declared that He restored His Church so “that faith ... might increase in the earth.” Therefore, when people visit our Church meetings, the Savior wants them to leave with stronger faith in Him! The love our friends feel among us will lift them closer to Jesus Christ! That is our simple goal every time we gather.

Anyone who is seeking greater faith in Christ or a closer connection to Heavenly Father should feel right at home in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Inviting them to our meetings can be as normal and as natural as inviting them into our homes.

The Ideal and the Real

Now, I realize that I’m describing the ideal. And in this mortal life, we rarely get to experience the ideal. And “until the perfect day,” there will always be a gap between the ideal and the real. So, what should we do when the Church doesn’t feel like the perfect day? When, for whatever reason, our ward doesn’t yet nurture perfect faith or love? Or when it feels that we don’t fit in?

One thing we should not do is give up on the ideal!

The title page of the Book of Mormon includes this important caution: “If there are faults,” it says, “they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God.”

Can a book—or a church or a person—have “faults” and “mistakes” and still be the work of God?

My answer is a resounding yes!

So, while we hold ourselves to the Lord’s high standards, let’s also be patient with one another. We are each a work in progress, and we all rely on the Savior for any progress we make. That’s true for us as individuals, and it’s true for the kingdom of God on earth.

The Lord invites us not just to join His king-

“Ia outou fealofani,” sa fetalai ai Iesu. “O le mea lea e iloa ai e tagata uma lava o O’u soo outou.” E tele lava, o se uluaimolimaua se tagata e uiga ia Iesu Keriso e oo mai pe a ia lagonaina le alofa faatasi masooo Iesu Keriso.

Sa folafola mai e le Faaola na la toefuataiina mai Lana Ekalesia ina ia “mafai ... ona faateleina [ai] le faatuatua i le lalolagi.” O le mea lea, pe a asiasi mai tagata i sauniga a le tatou Ekalesia, e finagalo le Faaola ia i latou ia o ese atu ma se faatuatua malosi atu ia te Ia! O le alofa e lagonaina e a tatou uo mai ia i tatou o le a siitia ai i latou ia latalata atili atu ai ia Iesu Keriso! O le tatou sini faigofie lena i taimi uma tatou te potopoto ai.

Soo se tasi lava e saili i se faatuatua sili atu ia Keriso po o se fesootaiga latalata atili i le Tama Faalelagi e tataua ona lagonaina le i ai i le aiga i Le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai. O le valaauliaina o i latou i a tatou sauniga e mafai ona avea o se valaaulia masani ma se mea fua e pei o le valaauliaina o i latou i o tatou fale.

O le Tulaga Atoatoa ma le Tulaga Moni

Ia, ua ou iloa o loo ou faamatalaina le tulaga atoatoa. Ma i lenei olaga faaletino, e seāseā tatou oo i le tulaga atoatoa. Ma “seia oo i le aso atoatoa,” o le a i ai pea se āva i le va o le tulaga atoatoa ma le tulaga moni. O lea la, o le a se mea e tataua ona tatou faia pe alēpei le Lotu o se aso atoatoa? O afea, po o le a lava le mafuaaga, e le ifaafailele ai lava e le tatou uarota se faatuatua atoatoa po o le alofa? Po o le, o le a se taimi e lagona ai tatou te lē fetalui i ai?

E tasi le mea e lētatau ona tatou faia o le lafoai o le tulaga atoatoa!

O le itulau autu o le Tusi a Mamonaua aofia ai lenei lapataiga taua: “Afai e i ai ni mea sese,” o loo faapea mai ai, “o mea sese ia a tagata; o le mea lea, aua le tausala mea a le Atua.”

Pe mafai e se tusi—po o se ekalesia po o se tagata—ona i ai ni “faaletonu” ma “mea sese” ae avea pea ma galuega a le Atua?

O la’u tali o seioemautinoa!

O lea la, a o tatou taofimau ai i tatou lava i tulaga faatonuina maua luga a le Alii, ia tatou onosai foi i le tasi ma le isi. O i tatou taitoatasi o se galuega o loo faagasolo, ma e tatou te faalagolago uma i le Faaola mo soo se alualu i luma tatou te faia. E moni lena mea mo i tatou o ni tagata taitoatasi, ma e moni foi mo le malo o le Atua i le lalolagi.

Ua valaaulia i tatou e le Alii ia le na o le auai

dom but also to be anxiously engaged in building. God envisions a people who are “of one heart and one mind.” And to be of one heart, we must seek pure hearts, and that requires a mighty change of heart.

But that doesn’t mean changing my heart to align with yours. Nor does it mean changing your heart to align with mine. It means that we all change our hearts to align with the Savior.

If we are not there yet, remember: with the Lord’s help, nothing is impossible.

Fit and Belonging

And if you ever feel like you don’t quite fit in, please know that you are not alone. Haven’t we all been in life situations when we felt like the stranger in the room? I have experienced this more than once. When I was 11 years old, my family was forced to leave our home and move to an unfamiliar region. Everything was different from what I was used to. And my accent made it clear to the other children that I was different from what they were used to. At a time when I desperately needed friendship and belonging, I felt lonely and displaced.

Here on earth, most of the differences we notice—the differences some of us use to categorize each other—have to do with earthly things: physical appearance, nationality, language, clothing, customs, and so on. But “God does not view things the way people do. People look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

From His perspective, there is one category that comes before all others: child of God. And we all fit perfectly in this one.

It’s natural to want to be around people who look, talk, act, and think like we do. There is a place for that.

But in the Savior’s Church, we gather all of God’s children who are willing to be gathered and who seek the truth. It is not our physical appearance, our political views, our culture, or our ethnicity that brings us together. It is not our common background that unites us. It is our common objective, our love for God and love for our neighbor, our commitment to Jesus Christ and His restored gospel. We are “one in Christ.”

The unity we seek is not to have everyone stand in the same place; it is to have everyone

Lona malo ae ia auai foi ma le naunautai i le fausiaina. Ua silasila mamao mai le Atua i se nuu e “loto e tasi ma le mafaufau e tasi.” Ina iatasile loto, e tatou onamamao tatou loto, ma e manaomia ai seliuga tele o le loto.

Ae e le faapea ia sui lo’u loto ia ogatusa ma lou loto. Pe sui foi lou loto ia ogatusa ma lo’u loto. O lona uiga ia sui uma o tatou loto ia ogatusa ma le Faaola.

Afai tatou te le’i oo lava i ai, manatua, o le fesoasoaniga a le Alii, e leai se mea e faigata.

Fetaui i ai ma le Avea ma Ni Ō

Ma afai e te lagonaina e te le o fetaui lelei i ai, faamolemole ia iloa e le o tuua na o oe. Pe tatou te le’i oo uma ea i ni tulaga o le olaga na tatou lagona ai pei o se tagata ese i totonu o le potu? Ua sili atu ma le faa-tasi ona ou oo i lea tulaga. Ina ua 11 o’u tausaga, sa faamalosi ai lo matou aiga e tuua lo matou fale ma o atu i se itulagi e le masani ai. Sa ese mea uma mai mea sa ou masani ai. Ma o la’u tautala na manino ai i isi tamaiti e ese’umai mea nalatou masani ai. I se taimi sa matuai ou manaomia ai se faauoga ma le avea ma ni o, sa ou lagona ai le tuuatoatasi ma le faaesea.

O iinei i le lalolagi, o le tele o eseese ua tatou matauina—eseese ia e faaoga e isi e faailoga ai le tasi ma le isi—ua mafua ona o mea faalelalolagi: foliga vaaiga faaletino, tagatanuu, gagana, lavalava, agaifanua, ma isi mea faapena. Ae “e le vaai le Alii e pei o le vaai a tagata. Aua e vaai tagata i le tino, a e vaai le Alii i le loto.”

Mai Lana silasila, e na o le tasi lava le vaega e muamua i lo isi uma: atalii po o se afafine o le Atua. Ma e fetaui atoatoa i ai i tatou uma i leni vaega e tasi.

O se mea masani le manao ia faatasitasi ma tagata e foliga, tautatala, amio, ma mafaufau pei o i tatou. E i ai se nofoaga mo lena mea.

Ae i le Ekalesia a le Faaola, tatou te faapotopoto mai fanau uma a le Atua o ē ua loto ina ia potopoto ma saili i le upumoni. E le o o tatou foliga vaaia faaletino, manatu faaupufai, aganuu, po o ituaiga e aumaia faatasia i tatou. E le o o tatou talaaga tutusa e tuufaatasia ai i tatou. Ae o lo tatou faamoemoega tutusa, o lo tatou alolofa mo le Atua ma tua’o, la tatou tautinoga ia Iesu Keriso ma Lana talalelei toefuataina. O tatou ua “tasi ia Keriso.”

O le lotogatasi tatou te sailia e le o le tutu ai o tagata uma i le mea e tasi; ae o le faasasaga atu

face in the same direction—toward Jesus Christ. We are one not because of where we’ve been but where we are striving to go, not because of who we are but who we seek to become.

That is what Christ’s true Church is all about.

One Body

If you love God, if you want to know Him better by following His Son, then you belong here. If you’re earnestly seeking to keep the Savior’s commandments—even though you’re not perfect at it yet—then you are a perfect fit for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

And what if you’re different from people around you? That doesn’t make you a misfit—it makes you a needed part of the body of Christ. All are needed in the body of Christ. The ears perceive things that the eyes never could. The feet do things that the hands would be ineffective at.

That doesn’t mean your job is to change everyone to be like yourself. But it does mean that you have something important to contribute—and that you have something important to learn!

One Voice

In every session of general conference, we’re blessed with inspiring music from talented choirs. As you listen, you might notice that the singers don’t all sing the same notes. Sometimes one section carries the melody, sometimes another. But they all contribute to the beautiful sound, and they’re completely unified. Each choir member has the same central goal: to praise God and lift our hearts to Him. Each must have his or her mind and heart fixed on the same divine purpose. And when that happens, they truly become one voice.

If you are not yet a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we invite you to join us as we rejoice in the Savior’s “song of redeeming love.” We need you. We love you. The Church will be better with your efforts to serve the Lord and His children.

If you have already shown, through baptism, through making covenants with God, your desire to “come into the fold of God, and to be called his people,” thank you for being part of this great and divine work and for helping to make the

o tagata uma i le itu e tasi—ia Iesu Keriso. Ua tasi i tatou, e le ona o le mea sa tatou i ai ae o le mea o loo tatou tauivi e o i ai, e le ona o le tagata ua tatou i ai ae o le tagata tatou te saili e avea ai.

O le uiga atoa lena o le Ekalesia moni a le Faaola.

Tasi le Tino

Afai e te alofa i le Atua, afai e te fia iloa atili o Ia e ala i le mulimuli i Lona Alo, o iinei la e tatau ona e i ai. Afai o loo e saili ma le naunautai e tausi poloaiga a le Faaola—e ui e te lē o atoatoa i lena mea—o lona uiga la ua fetau ai atoatoa oe mo Le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai.

Ae a pe afai e ese oe mai tagata o siomia oe? E le faapea o le a lē fetau ai la mo oe—e faia ai oe ma vaega moomia o le tino o Keriso. E manaomia tagata uma i le tino o Keriso. E iloa e taliga mea e lē mafai e mata ona iloa. E fai e vae mea e lē aoga i lima.

E lē faapea la o lau galuega ia suia tagata uma ina ia faapei o oe. Ae o lona uiga e i ai se mea taua e te saofagā ai—ma e i ai se mea taua e te aoaoina!

Tasi le Leo

I sauniga uma o le konafesi aoao, ua faamanuiaina i tatou i musika musuia mai aufaipese talenia. A e faafofoga i ai, atonu e te matauina e lē usuina e tagata uma ia nota lava e tasi. O nisi taimi e usu ai e le tasi vaega le fati, o nisi taimi o le isi vaega. Ae saofagā uma i latou i le leo matagofie, ma e autasi atoatoa i latou. Ua i ai i tagata taitoatasi o le aufaipese le sini autu e tasi: ia viia le Atua ma sii atu o tatou loto ia te Ia. E tatau i tagata taitasi ona tāmāu lona mafaufau ma lona loto i le faamoemoega paia lava e tasi. Ma a tupu lena mea, e avea moni i latou ma leo e tasi.

Afai e le’i avea oe ma se tagata o Le Ekalesia e Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai, matou te valaaulia oe ia auai ma i matou a o matou olioli i le “pese o le alofa togiola” a le Faaola. Matou te manaomia oe. Matou te alolofa ia te oe. O le a lelei atili le Ekalesia i au taumafaiga e auauna i le Alii ma Ana fanau.

Afai ua uma ona outou faaalua, e ala i le papatisoga, e ala i le osia o feagaiga ma le Atua, lo outou manao e “o mai i le saogalemu o le Atua, ma ta’ua o ona tagata,” faafetai atu mo le avea ma se vaega o lenei galuega tele ma le paia ma mo

Church of Jesus Christ what the Savior wants it to be.

As I learned from my friend in Germany, our love for God and His children is a powerful testimony to the world that this is truly the Savior's Church.

May God bless us to patiently but diligently seek to live up to the ideals our Savior, Redeemer, and Master has set for us—so all will know that we are His disciples. In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

le fesoasoani e avea le Ekalesia a Iesu Keriso ma ekalesia e finagalo le Faaola e avea ai.

E pei ona ou aoao mai la'u uo i Siamani, o lo tatou alofa mo le Atua ma Ana fanau o se moli-mau mamana lea i le lalolagi o le Ekalesia moni lava lenei a le Faaola.

Tau ina ia faamanuia i tatou e le Atua ia saili ma le onosai ae ia filiga ia ola e tusa ma tulaga atoatoa ua faatulagaina e lo tatou Faaola, Togiola, ma le Matai mo i tatou—ina ia iloa ai e tagata uma o i tatou o Ona soo. I le suafa paia o Iesu Keriso, amene.