

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

By Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“Hivyo Watu Wote Watatambua Ya Kuwa Ninyi Mmekuwa Wanafunzi Wangu”

Na Mzee Dieter F. Uchtdorf
Wa Akidi ya Mitume Kumi na Wawili

April 2025 general conference

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.

Upendo wetu kwa Mungu na watoto Wake ni ushuhuda wenye nguvu kwa ulimwengu kwamba hili kweli ni Kanisa la Mwokozi.

Miaka mingi iliyopita mimi na Dada Uchtdorf tulikuwa tukisafiri kupitia kusini mwa Ujerumani. Ilikuwa kabla tu ya Pasaka, na tulimwalika rafiki mwema, ambaye hakuwa muumini wa Kanisa hili, ili kujiunga nasi katika ibada yetu ya Jumapili. Tulimpenda rafiki huyu mpendwa, kwa hivyo ilikuwa kawaida kushirikiana naye jinsi tulivyohisi kuhusu Mwokozi na Kanisa Lake na tumwalika aje na aone! Dada yule alikubali mwaliko huo na kujiunga nasi kwenye mikutano ya tawi lililo karibu.

Kama umewahi kumleta rafiki kanisani kwa mara ya kwanza, pengine unaweza kusimulia jinsi nilivyohisi Jumapili hiyo asubuhi. Nilitaka kila kitu kiende kikamilifu. Rafiki yetu alikuwa mtu mwenye elimu ya juu, mtu wa kiroho. Kwa dhati nilitarajia mikutano ya tawi hili ingelea hisia nzuri kwake na kuliwakilisha vyema Kanisa.

Tawi lilikutana katika vyumba fulani vya kukodi kwenye ghorofa ya pili ya duka la vyakula. Ili kufika huko, ilitubidi kupanda ngazi nyuma ya jengo, tukipita kwenye harufu nzuri iliyotokana na bidhaa zilizohifadhiwa humo.

Mkutano wa sakramenti ulipoanza, nilifikiria kuhusu uzoefu huu wa mara ya kwanza kwa rafiki yangu, na sikuweza kujizuia kutambua mambo ambayo yalinifanya ninywee kidogo. Uimbaji, kwa mfano, haukusikika kama Kwaya ya Tabernacle. Watoto wasiotulia, wenye kelele waliweza kusikika wakati wa sakramenti. Wanenaji waliifanya wawezavyo, lakini hawakuwa na ustadi wa kuzungumza mbele ya watu. Niliketi bila raha mkutanoni, nikitumaini kwamba labda Shule ya

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.

"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

Jumapili ingekuwa bora zaidi.

Haikuwa.

Asubuhi yote nilikuwa na wasiwasi kuhusu kile ambacho rafiki yetu lazima afikirie kuhusu kanisa hili tulilokuwa tumempeleka.

Baadaye, tulipokuwa tukirudi nyumbani, niligeuka kuzungumza na rafiki yetu. Nilitaka kueleza kwamba hili lilikuwa tawi moja tu dogo na halikuwakilisha Kanisa kwa ujumla. Lakini kabla sijasema neno lolote, yeye aliongea.

"Mambo yalikuwa vizuri," alisema.

Sikuwa na cha kusema."

Aliendelea, "Nimefurahishwa sana na jinsi watu wanavyotendean katika kanisa leni. Wote wanaonekana kutoka katika asili tofauti, na bado ni wazi kwamba wanapendana kwa dhati. Hivi ndivyo nadhani Kristo alitaka Kanisa Lake liwe."

Naam, nilitubu upesi mtazamo wangu wa kuhukumu. Nilitaka mikutano yenye picha kamili ili kumvutia rafiki yangu. Lakini kile ambacho washiriki wa tawi hili walikuwa wamekipata kili-kuwa roho kamilifu ya moyo wa upendo, wema, subira na huruma.

"Kwamba Imani Ipate Kuongezeka kati-ka Dunia"

Akina kaka na akina dada wapendwa, marafiki wapendwa, ninalipenda Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho. Ni Kanisa la kweli na lililo hai la Mwokozi, na linafundisha utimilifu uliorejeshwa wa injili ya Yesu Kristo. Nguvu na mamlaka yake ya ukuhani yanaishi hapa. Yesu Kristo mwenyewe anaongoza Kanisa hili, kupitia watumishi ambao Yeye amewaita na kuwaidhinisha hata nabii aliye hai, Rais Russell M. Nelson. Amewapa Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho misheni ya kipekee ya kuwakusanya watoto wa Mungu na kuandaa ulimwengu kwa Ujio wa Pili wa Mwokozi. Ntoa ushuhuda wangu kwamba haya yote ni kweli.

Lakini ni muhimu kukumbuka kwamba wakati watu wengi wanakumbana na Kanisa la Yesu Kristo kwa mara ya kwanza, hawafikirii kuhusu mamlaka ya ukuhani au ibada au kuku-sanywa kwa Israeli. Wanachoweza kugundua, zaidi ya yote, ni jinsi wanavyohisi wanapokuwa pamoja nasi na jinsi tunavyotendean.

"Mpendane," Yesu alisema. "Hivyo watu wote watatambua ya kuwa ninyi mmekuwa wanafunzi Wangu." Mara nyingi sana, ushuhudawa kwanza

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 kingdom but also to be anxiously engaged in building it. 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.

wa mtu juu ya Yesu Kristo huja wakati anapohisi upendo miongoni mwawanafunziwa Yesu Kristo.

Mwokozi alitamka kwamba Yeye alirejesha Kanisa Lake ili “imani ... ipate kuongezeka katika dunia.” Kwa hivyo, watu wanapotembelea mikutano yetu ya Kanisa, Mwokozi anawataka waondoke wakiwa na imani yenye nguvu zaidi katika Yeye! Upendo ambao marafiki wetu wana-usikia miongoni mwetu utawainua kuwa karibu zaidi na Yesu Kristo! Hili ndilo lengo letu rahisi kila mara tunapokusanyika.

Mtu yeyote anayetafuta imani kuu zaidi katika Kristo au muunganiko wa karibu zaidi na Baba wa Mbinguni anapaswa kuhisi yuko nyumbani katika Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho. Kuwaalika kwenye mikutano yetu kunaweza kuwa jambo la kawaida na la kiasili kama vile kuwaalika nyumbani mwetu.

Kilicho Bora na Halisi

Sasa, ninagundua kuwa ninaelezea kile kilicho bora. Na katika maisha haya ya duniani, mara chache tunapata uzoefu wa kile kilicho bora. Na “hadi mchana mkamilifu” daima kutakuwa na pengo kati ya kilicho bora na halisi. Kwa hiyo, tunapaswa kufanya nini iwapo Kani-sahalionekanikama mchana mkamilifu? Wakati, kwa sababu yoyote ile, kata yetubadohairutubishi imani na upendo mkamilifu? Au mnapohisi kwamba hapatufai?

Jambo moja ambalo hatupaswikufanya ni kukata tamaa juu ya kilicho bora!

Katika ukurasa wa jina wa Kitabu cha Mormon unajumuisha onyo hili muhimu: “Kama kuna makosa,” inasema, “ni mapungufu ya wadamu; kwa hivyo, usilaumu vitu vya Mungu.”

Je, inawezekana kitabu—au kanisa au mtu—kuwa na “mapungufu” na “makosa” na bado ikawa kazi ya Mungu?

Jibu langu kwa sauti kubwa nindiyo!

Kwa hivyo, tunaposhikilia viwango vya juu vya Bwana, tuwe na subira pia na sisi kwa sisi. Kila mmoja wetu ni kazi inayoendelea, na sote tunamtegemea Mwokozi kwa maendeleo yoyote tunayofanya. Hiyo ni kweli kwetu sisi binafsi, na ni kweli kwa ufalme wa Mungu duniani.

Bwana anatualika sisi sio tukujiungana ufalme Wake lakini pia kujishughulisha kwa shauku katikakuujenga. Mungu huona watu walio na “moyo mmoja na nia moja.” Na kuwa wa moyo mmoja, tunapaswa kutafuta miyo yosafi, na hilo linahitaji badiliko kuu la moyo.

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 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.

Lakini hiyo haimaanishi kubadilisha moyo wangu ili uendane na wako. Wala haimaanishi kubadilisha moyo wako ili kuendana na wangu. Inamaanisha sisi sote tunabadilisha mioyo yetu ili kuendana na Mwokozi.

Ikiwa bado hatujafikia hapo, kumbuka kwa msaada wa Bwana, hakuna lisilowezezana.

Kufaa na Kuwa Sehemu Ya

Na ikiwa unaona kama hapakufai kabisa, tafadhali fahamu kuwa hauko peke yako. Je, sisi sote hatujakuwa katika hali za maisha wakati ambapo tulihisi kama ni mgeni katika chumba? Nimepata uzoefu huu zaidi ya mara moja. Nili-pokuwa na umri wa miaka 11, familia yangu ililazimika kuondoka nyumbani kwetu na kuhamia eneo lisilojulikana. Kila kitu kilikuwa tofauti na nilivyo zoea. Na lafudhi yangu iliwadhihirishia watoto wengine kuwamiminilikuwa tofauti na kilewaawalichozoea. Wakati ambapo nilihitaji sana urafiki na kuwa sehemu yao, nilihisi mpweke na aliye uhamishoni.

Hapa duniani, tofauti nyingi tunazoziona—tofauti ambazo wengine hutumia kututenganisha—zinahusiana na mambo ya kidunia: mwonekano wa sura, utaifa, lugha, mavazi, mila na kadhalika. Lakini “Mungu haangalii kama binadamu aangaliavyo. Wanadamu huitazama sura ya nje, lakini Bwana huutazama moyo.”

Kutoka kwenye mtazamo Wake, kuna aina moja inayokuja mbele ya nyingine zote: mtoto wa Mungu. Na sisi sote tunafaa vyema katika hili.

Ni kawaida kutaka kuwa karibu na watu wanaonekana, wanaozungumza, wanaotenda na wanaofikiri kama sisi. Kuna mahali kwa ajili ya hilo.

Lakini katika Kanisa la Mwokozi, tunakusanya watoto wote wa Mungu ambao wako tayari kukusanywa na wale wanaoutafuta ukweli. Sio mwonekano wetu wa kimwili, mitazamo ya kisia-sa, utamaduni au ukabila vinavyotuleta pamoja. Sio historia yetu ya pamoja inayotuunganisha. Ni lengo letu la pamoja, upendo wetu kwa Mungu na jirani, ahadi zetu kwa Yesu Kristo na injili Yake iliyorejeshwa. Sisi tu “wamoja katika Kristo.”

Umoja tunaotafuta siyo wa kumtaka kila mtu asimame mahali pamoja; ni wa kuwafanya watu wote waelekee upande ule ule mmoja—kuelekea kwa Yesu Kristo. Sisi tu wamoja, si kwa sababu ya mahali tulipokuwa bali pale tunapojitahidi kwenda, si kwa sababu ya sisi ni nani bali vile

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

As I learned from my friend in Germany, our

tunavyotafuta kuwa.

Hivyo ndivyo Kanisa la kweli la Kristo lilivyo.

Mwili Mmoja

Ikiwa unampenda Mungu, ukitaka kumjua vyema kwa kumfuata Mwanawe, basi wewe ni wa hapa. Ikiwa kwa dhati unatafuta kutii amri za Mwokozi—ingawa bado hujawa mkamilifu—basi wewe unatosha kabisa kuwa katika Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho.

Na vipi kama wewe ni tofauti na watu walio karibu nawe? Hiyo haikufanyi kuwa mtu asiye-faa—inakufanya wewe uwe sehemu inayohitajika ya mwili wa Kristo. Wote wanahitajika katika mwili wa Kristo. Masikio husikia mambo ambayo macho hayawezi kamwe. Miguu hufanya mambo ambayo mikono haiwezi kufanya.

Hiyo haimaanishi kuwa kazi yako ni kubadilisha kila mtu kuwa kama wewe ulivyo. Lakini inamaanisha kwamba una jambo muhimu la kuchangia—na kwamba una jambo muhimu la kujifunza!

Sauti Moja

Katika kila kipindi cha mkutano mkuu, tunabarikiwa na muziki wa kutia moyo kutoka kwa kwaya zenye vipaji. Unaposikiliza, unaweza kugundua kwamba waimbaji wote hawaimbi noti ile ile. Wakati fulani sehemu moja hubeba tuni, wakati fulani sehemu nyingine. Lakini wote huchangia sauti nzuri, na wameungana vyema. Kila mwanakwaya ana lengo moja kuu: kumsifu Mungu na kuinua mioyo yetu Kwake. Kila mmoja anapaswa kuweka akili na moyo wake kwenye kusudi lile lile la kimungu. Na hilo linapotokea, wanakuwa kweli sauti moja.

Ikiwa wewe bado si muumini wa Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho, tunakualika ujiunge nasi tunapofurahia "wimbo wa upendo wa ukombozi wa Mwokozi." Tunawahitaji. Tunawapenda. Kanisa litakuwa bora zaidi kwa juhudi zako za kumtumikia Bwana na watoto Wake.

Ikiwa tayari umeonyesha, kupitia ubatizo, kupitia kufanya maagano na Mungu, hamu yako ya "kuja katika zizi la Mungu, na kuitwa watu wake," asante kwa kuwa sehemu ya kazi hii kuu na ya kiungu na kwa kusaidia kulifanya Kanisa la Yesu Kristo kuwa vile Mwokozi anataka liwe.

Kama nilivyojifunza kutoka kwa rafiki yangu

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.

huko Ujerumani, upendo wetu kwa Mungu na watoto Wake ni ushuhuda wenye nguvu kwa ulimwengu kwamba hili kweli ni Kanisa la Mwokozi.

Mungu na atubariki kutafuta kwa subira lakini kwa bidii kuishi kulingana na maadili ambayo Mwokozi, Mkombozi na Bwana wetu ameweka kwa ajili yetu—ili wote wapate kujua kwamba sisi ni wanafunzi Wake. Katika jina takatifu la Yesu Kristo, amina.