

Definitions

Commission: “A formal written warrant granting the power to perform various acts or duties; . . . a certificate conferring military rank and authority; . . . an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner; . . . a task or matter entrusted to one as an agent for another” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed. [1998], 231).

Revival of Basic Gospel Principles

Elder Boyd K. Packer, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said:

“Procedures, programs, the administrative policies, even some patterns of organization are subject to change. We are quite free, indeed, quite obligated to alter them from time to time. But the *principles*, the *doctrines*, *never* change. . . .

“Because the Church is growing so fast, there is a temptation to try to solve problems by changing boundaries, altering programs, reorganizing the leadership, or providing more comfortable buildings. . . . What we really need is a revival of the basic gospel principles in the lives of all the Latter-day Saints. . . .

“The prophet Joseph Smith gave us the key. He said, with reference to administration, ‘I teach them correct *principles*, and they govern themselves.’” (“Principles,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1985, 8).

Values of Divine Origin

President Gordon B. Hinckley, then a member of the First Presidency, said:

“To each of you I say this: As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you have been taught many values of divine origin. These values are based on the commandments which the finger of the Lord wrote upon the tablets of stone when Moses spoke with Jehovah upon the mountain. . . .

“The values you have been taught likewise are based upon the beatitudes which Jesus spoke to the multitude. These, with others of His divine teachings, constitute a code of ethics, a code of values, a code of divine doctrine familiar to you and binding upon you. . . .

“Combined together these basic, divinely given principles, laws, and commandments constitute your value system. You cannot escape the consequences of their observance. If you will shape your lives according to their pattern, I do not hesitate to promise that you will know much of peace and happiness, of growth and achievement. To the degree that you fail to observe them, I regretfully say that the fruits will be disappointment, sadness, misery, and even tragedy” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1992, 99; or *Ensign*, May 1992, 71).

 *Notes*