

“Radiation of the Individual”

by President David O. McKay

The Instructor, October, 1964, p. 373-374.

Every man and every person who lives in this world wields an influence, whether for good or for evil. It is not what he says alone; it is not alone what he does. It is what he is. Every man, every person radiates what he or she really is. Every person is a recipient of radiation. The Saviour was conscious of that. Whenever He came into the presence of an individual, He sensed that radiation -- whether it was the woman of Samaria with her past life: whether it was the woman who was to be stoned, or the men who were to stone her; whether it was the statesman, Nicodemus, or one of the lepers. He was conscious of the radiation from the individual. And to a degree so are you. and so am I. It is what we are and what we *radiate* that affects the people around us.

As individuals, we must think nobler thoughts. We must not encourage vile thoughts or low aspirations. We shall radiate them if we do. If we think noble thoughts; if we encourage and cherish noble aspirations, there will be that radiation when we meet people, especially when we associate with them.

As it is true of the individual. so it is true of the home. Our homes radiate what we are, and that radiation comes from what we say and how we act in the home. No member of this Church -- husband, father -- has the right to utter an oath in his home, or ever to express a cross word to his wife or to his children. You cannot do it as a man who holds the priesthood and be true to the spirit within you by your ordination and your responsibility. You should contribute to an ideal home by your character, controlling your passion, your temper, guarding your speech, because those things will make your home what it is and what it will radiate to the neighborhood.

A City That Radiates Spirituality

I am reminded of a remark made by a man who came to Salt Lake City and attended the board meeting of the United States Steel Corporation in 1946. Some of the General Authorities were invited to attend a dinner of that board; and, at the conclusion of that entertainment, Mr. Irving S. Olds, the chairman of the board, who was the master of ceremonies on that occasion, said: "Now we are not going to have any set speeches, but here is an opportunity if any of you would like to express yourselves."

Mr. Nathan L Miller, general counsel for that board, arose and in substance said, "I am one of those inquisitive, suspicious New Englanders; and I have been impressed with something in this city that seems to be different from any other city I have I ever visited. I walked up and down Main Street and watched the people; and I tried to define that something, and wondered what it was, but during an interview in the president's office today (President George Albert Smith was their host then), I think I' discovered what that difference is." (President Smith had called on some of the brethren to speak to these United States Steel board members who were sitting and standing around the First Presidency's board room in the Church Administration Building.) Mr. Miller continued, "I listened to what these men said. One of them had referred to the pioneers and the spirit of the pioneers; that before they started out across the plains, under the direction of President Brigham Young they first sought divine guidance. Second, under his

direction, they were prepared. Every man carried a gun and was prepared for an attack of savages or any other possible emergency that might come to the pioneers that day. And third, every man was required to take just as much care of his neighbor's cattle as he did his own." *Worship, Preparation, Service!*

I do not know whether it was that that answered this gentleman's curiosity or not; but he said "I thought in that meeting in the President's office I detected what there is in this city which is different -- it is spirituality! That's it -- it is spirituality! I am wondering if you younger men (he spoke to those around him) can keep that spirituality with the installation of material things coming into your midst."

Mr. Miller was referring to that radiation of the group which we all feel. I repeat, every individual — has it. Every home radiates it, and every Latter-day Saint home should have it.

A father visited his son's new home. The son was proud to show him the various rooms and the new installations in the kitchen. After they were through with their visit, the father said, "Yes, it is beautiful; but I see no signs of God in your home." And the son said, "I went back; and as I looked through the rooms, I noticed I had nothing suggestive of the presence of the Redeemer or the Saviour."

Church Members should Radiate Love and Harmony

As men of the priesthood, as women of the Church, we have greater responsibilities than ever before to make our homes such as will radiate to our neighbors harmony, love, community duties, loyalty. Let our neighbors see it and hear it. Never must there be expressed in a Latter-day Saint home an oath, a condemnatory term, an expression of anger or jealousy or hatred. Control it! Do not express it! You do what you can to produce peace and harmony, no matter what you may suffer.

The Saviour set us the example. He was always calm, always controlled, radiating something which people could feel as they passed. When the woman touched His garment, He felt something go from Him — that radiation which is divine.

Each individual soul has it. That is you! The body is only the house in which you live.

The Church is reaching out, radiating not only by its prayers, its houses of worship and meetings, but now through television and radio it is radiating throughout the whole world.

God help us as members of the priesthood, as members of the Church. to radiate Faith. Love of humanity, Charity, Control, Consideration. and Service!