

LESSON 44 *by Dennis Roberts*

Being Good Citizens

(Objective: encourage members to be good citizens)

Welcome

What is the ideal form of government under which we can live?

1- Participating in government

- a. D&C 134 What are purposes of government?
 verse 1 ___ good and safety of society
 verse 6 ___ protect innocent and punish guilty
 verse 7 ___ protect free exercise of religion
 verse 11 ___ redress wrongs and grievances
- b. *Supplement #1 Elder L. Tom Perry*
- c. D&C 134:3 What leaders should we seek?
- d. *Supplement #2 Church Handbook of Instructions*

2- Obeying the laws of the land

- a. D&C 58:21-22 What is our responsibility towards laws?
- b. D&C 134:3,6 How should we treat civil officers?
- c. D&C 134:4,9 What is relationship of religion & government?

3- Strengthening the community

- a. *Supplement #3 Church Handbook of Instructions*
- b. Strengthen our community..... Giving service to others
 Why is it important for LDS to give community service?
 What opportunities exist for community service?
- c. Strengthen our community..... Serving in civic positions
 What are some examples of public service positions?
 How can we discover opportunities to serve?
- d. Strengthen our community..... Supporting worthy causes
 D&C 58:27 How can we become anxiously engaged?
 What are some worthy causes we can support?
 What are some challenges to giving community service?

Application

Supplement #4 Elder M. Russell Ballard

Members of the Granger 18th ward have the obligation to do good works within the world while remaining apart from its influences.

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LESSON 44 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis Roberts*

SUPPLEMENT #1 **Elder L. Tom Perry**

“As Church members, we live under the banner of many different flags. How important it is that we understand our place and our position in the lands in which we live! We should be familiar with the history, heritage, and laws of the lands that govern us. In those countries that allow us the right to participate in the affairs of government, we should use our free agency and be actively engaged in supporting and defending the principles of truth, right, and freedom.”

(Gen Conf, Oct. 1987)

SUPPLEMENT #2 **Church Handbook of Instructions**

As we participate in the political processes, we should do so with the understanding that “the Church is politically neutral. It does not endorse political parties, platforms, or candidates. Candidates should not imply that they are endorsed by the Church or its leaders. Church leaders and members should avoid any statements or conduct that might be interpreted as Church endorsement of political parties or candidates.” (Church Handbook of Instruction #2: Priesthood & Auxiliary Leaders [1998], 325)

SUPPLEMENT #3 **Church Handbook of Instructions**

“Members should do their civic duty by supporting measures that strengthen society morally, economically, and culturally. Members are urged to be actively engaged in worthy causes to improve their communities and make them wholesome places in which to live and rear families.”

(Book 2, page 325)

SUPPLEMENT #4 **Elder M. Russell Ballard**

“In the Church, we often state the couplet, ‘Be in the world but not of the world.’ ... Perhaps we should state the couplet ... as two separate admonitions. First, ‘*Be in the world.*’ Be involved; be informed. Try to be understanding and tolerant and to appreciate diversity. Make meaningful contributions to society through service and involvement. Second, ‘*Be not of the world.*’ Do not follow wrong paths or bend to accommodate or accept what is not right. ...

“Members of the Church need to influence more than we are influenced. We should work to stem the tide of sin and evil instead of passively being swept along by it. We each need to help solve the problem rather than avoid or ignore it.”

(Gen Conf, Apr. 1989)

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(Objective: encourage members to be good citizens)

Thanksgiving Day
empty chair honoring
those soldiers who
gave lives for our
freedom

Welcome

What is the ideal form of government under which we can live?

1- Participating in government

- a. D&C 134 What are purposes of government? ----- Read heading to section first
 - verse 1 ___ good and safety of society
 - verse 6 ___ protect innocent and punish guilty
 - verse 7 ___ protect free exercise of religion
 - verse 11 ___ redress wrongs and grievances

>Assign groups to read verses and report findings
>What is significant about this section at this time in history?

Schools= PTAs, Community Councils, classroom volunteers, school issues
Health= visit sick, those without families, care centers
Social= disabled, teach English, help neighbors

- b. Supplement #1 Elder L. Tom Perry ----- Can one person make a difference?
- c. D&C 134:3 What leaders should we seek?----- How do we respond to those who don't like any candidate?
- d. Supplement #2 Church Handbook of Instructions ----- Why doesn't the church tell us how to vote?

2- Obeying the laws of the land

- a. D&C 58:21-22 What is our responsibility towards laws? ----- How can we teach family and friends to respect and obey laws?
- b. D&C 134:3, 6 How should we treat civil officers? ----- "Government require civil officers" / "officers honored in station"
- c. D&C 134:4, 9 What is relationship of religion & government? ----- "human law has no right to interfere with worship unless it infringes on rights and liberties of others"

3- Strengthening the community

- a. Supplement #3 Church Handbook of Instructions ----- Why is it important that Mormons get involved? Why don't we do more?
- b. Strengthen our community..... Giving service to others ----- Does church provide opportunities to give community service?
 - Why is it important for individuals to give community service? ----- Selfishly speaking, how do we benefit from giving service to others?
 - What opportunities exist for community service? ----- Schools, health services, social services
- c. Strengthen our community..... Serving in civic positions ----- Are there positions that don't require "running for office"?
 - What are some examples of public service positions? ----- Ask class members for local examples
 - How can we discover opportunities to serve? ----- Read newspapers, TV or radio news, listen to discussions at work
- d. Strengthen our community..... Supporting worthy causes ----- read More Stuff #2 – Dolina Smith
 - D&C 58:27 How can we become "anxiously engaged"? ----- What is result of being anxiously engaged? ("much righteousness")
 - What are some worthy causes we can support? ----- How can we fight evil influences? (phone calls, letters, involvement)
 - What are some challenges to giving community service? ----- TIME, overcoming "I'm only one person" syndrome

Application

Supplement #4 Elder M. Russell Ballard

Members of the Granger 18th ward have the obligation to do good works within the world while remaining apart from its influences.

Read More Stuff
#3 being
courteous
Read More Stuff
#5, #6, and #7

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