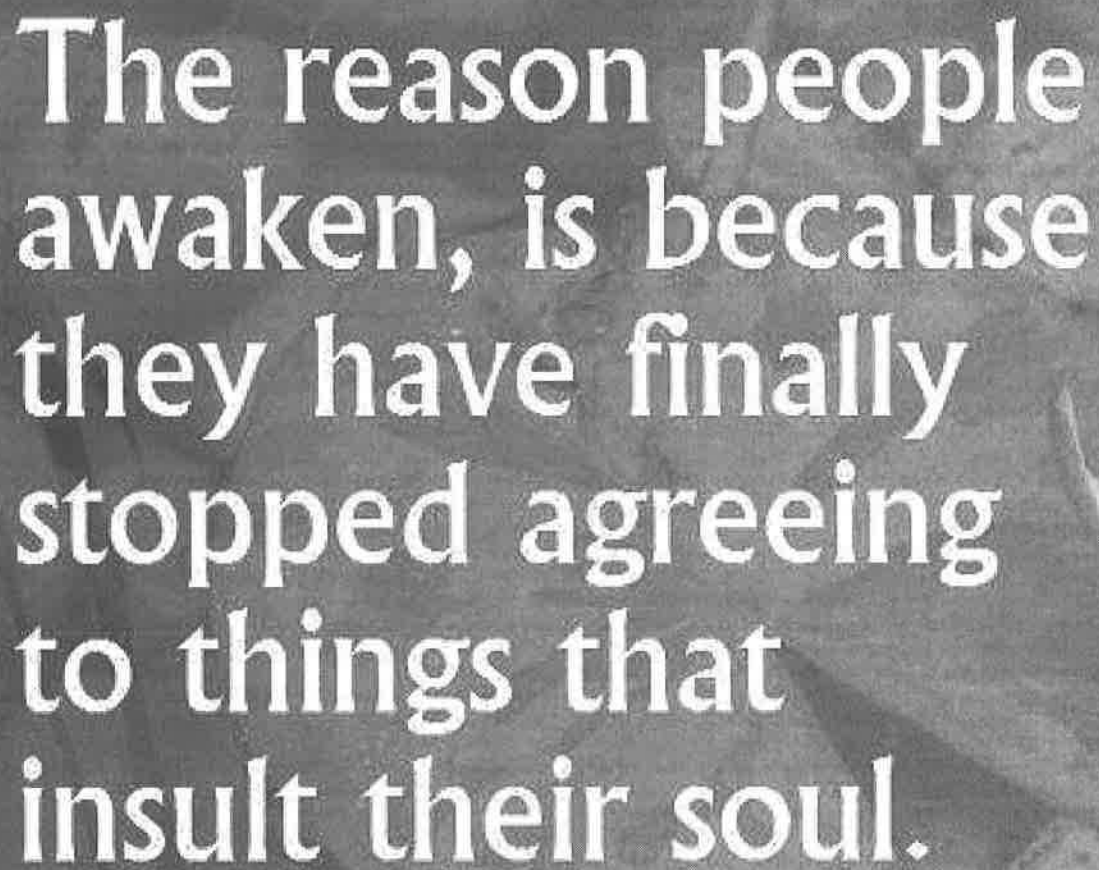


## The Theology of the Proclamation

by Thomas Montgomery | Oct 4, 2017 | [Activism](#), [Atonement](#), [Church](#), [Disagreement](#), [exclusion-policy](#), [Faith Crisis](#), [faith crisis](#), [Family](#), [Featured](#), [LGBTQ](#), [Marriage](#), [Mormonism](#), [Prophets](#), [Theology](#) | 1 comment



The reason people awaken, is because they have finally stopped agreeing to things that insult their soul.

Theology matters to me. I know it is normal to ascribe nefarious intentions and motives to why people leave the Church and they usually begin and end with sin, offense and being weak. You can really point to any and every reason except (1) the doctrine or (2) the brethren. However, my exit from Mormonism is directly impacted and driven by both modern interpretation of

doctrine and the words and actions of the brethren. But even in my spiritual life beyond Mormonism, theology and spirituality are still very important parts of my life.

I don't generally read or watch conference talks anymore. My only reason for listening to Oak's 2017 General Conference address was because I wanted to spell out, for whomever is interested, why this is such a problematic talk. It causes harm to the LGBT community whom I love and care for deeply. And so, it warranted a response.

### **Exclusion and Rejection**

From the start Oaks is intent on drawing lines and defining who is on each side of the line. He draws on scripture and the prophet to define these exclusions.

Quoting James, "whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Quoting Monson, "it is essential that we reject anything that does not conform to our standards."

This talk is primarily geared toward addressing the Proclamation and its opposition to same sex marriage. Oaks is drawing definitive lines that anyone who supports same sex marriage is "an enemy to God" and should be "rejected".

### **Conflation**

Oaks conflates same sex marriage and relationships outside of wedlock. He cites rates of children being born outside of wedlock. There is nothing equal in the commitment/love of married persons and those who are not married. No same sex marriage has increased the rate of children born out of wedlock.

Conflating these things allows heterosexual members to equate infidelity and fornication with same sex marriage.

### **The Gospel**

Oaks says, "The gospel plan that each family should follow to prepare for eternal life and exaltation is outlined in the Proclamation..."

"Converted Latter Day Saints believe that the Proclamation...is the Lord's re-emphasis of the gospel truths we need to sustain us."

The problem – Jesus never connected the gospel or eternal life to anything remotely resembling the Proclamation. Not in the New Testament or the Book of Mormon. And nothing Jesus did teach regarding salvation is in the Proclamation. The Proclamation is not the gospel.

### **Salvation**

The Proclamation and Oaks talk are almost exclusively focused on exaltation. Salvation, the Atonement and the gospel Jesus taught are at best an afterthought or a lesser gospel. And this is the real issue –

In the pursuit of exaltation, Mormons have completely disregarded and ignored whom we exclude on that basis. Meaning, if you are not on the path of exaltation within Mormonism,

they will deny you the ordinances of salvation (baptism, gift of the Holy Ghost). Everything is judged on top tier membership in the Celestial Kingdom at the expense of everyone else.

This is not the gospel Jesus taught. You can claim it is how it is revealed to modern prophets or is interpretation of Old Testament stories (Adam or Abraham), but you can't claim it is the gospel Jesus taught (either in the Book of Mormon or New Testament).

And if the pursuit of Celestial exaltation harms or detracts from the work of salvation, I would suggest that you need to explore whether your doctrine of exaltation is accurate or not. Because God may have a problem with that.

Because even of his apostles Jesus begs, "Feed my sheep. Feed my sheep. Feed my sheep."

### **Motives**

For those wondering why Elder Oaks would speak against same-sex marriage (again) in such strong language in General Conference, there is actually very good reason. The position of the Church is teetering on the edge of collapse. Not only is same sex marriage legal, but some courageous members are on a historical, biological and theological basis completely unraveling the Church's weak position.

Recently, Bryce Cook's essay "What Do We Know of God's Will For His LGBT Children? An Examination of the LDS Church's Position on Homosexuality" does a complete review of the theological, ethical and moral stand of the Church.

<https://mormonlgbtquestions.com/.../what-do-we-know-of-gods-.../>

Last week, Greg Prince gave a lecture at the University of Utah that establishes without question that homosexuality is biological. He also notes that the Church's position on homosexuality has been changing and backtracking (not eternal and unchanging) since the 1960s and 1970s. The fact that the Church's position has changed isn't a problem unless you hold to belief that Church doctrine never changes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gssnz1WZ3dU&feature=youtu.be>

Greg Prince is also finalizing a history called Mormon and Gay which is a comprehensive history of the Church's history with LGBT issues. Greg is an accomplished and published historian.

So, there is plenty of powerful information out in the world that Elder Oaks needs to scare members away from in order to maintain the current status-quo in the Church. Much like how the Exclusion Policy was intended to limit members being exposed to healthy, happy same sex couples. It's not the children of said marriages being protected, but the cognitive dissonance of the members.

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Thomas Montgomery



TOM MONTGOMERY is an active member of the LDS Church who has recently traveled the road from going door-to-door in support of Prop 8 in California to having a great love for the LGBT Mormon community. He says that his single qualification to be in this esteemed company of authors is the privilege of being the father of a wonderful gay son, while his wife would probably note that he has an annoying sense of hope, optimism and blind faith that the Savior is pulling some mighty strings in our day. He has no political or activist agendas other than to be 100% supportive of the health and well being of LGBT Mormon youth and finding a place within the LDS Church for them.

All posts by Thomas Montgomery

## 1 Comment



**Mayte Bastida** on October 4, 2017 at 7:35 am

Good job. I agree completely with you. As D&C 112 said: The Lord is going to start "cleaning out" from "inside of His house" and I am sure that He is going to start from "the TOP: those so-call "General Authorities"

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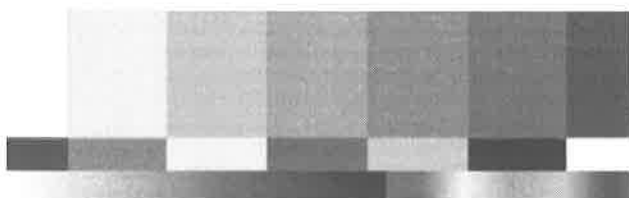
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