
LESSON 9:

Laws, Ordinances, and Repentance

Ponder: What are Laws and Ordinances, and What is Repentance?

Ponder the following summary descriptions about laws, ordinances, and repentance:

Laws: The commandments or rules of God upon which all blessings and punishments are based both in heaven and on earth. Those who obey the laws of God receive the promised blessings. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that people should also obey, honor, and sustain the laws of the land (Articles of Faith 1:12).

The law of Moses was a preparatory law to bring men and women to Christ. It was a law of restrictions, prescriptions, and ordinances. Today the law of Christ, which fulfilled the law of Moses, is the fulness of the gospel or “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25). (See [Gospel Library > Scriptures > Guide to the Scriptures > Law](#))

Ordinances: Sacred rites and ceremonies. Ordinances consist of acts that have spiritual meanings. Ordinances can also mean God’s laws and statutes.

Ordinances in the Church include:

- Administration to the sick (James 5:14–15)
- Blessing the sacrament (Doctrine and Covenants 20:77, 79)
- Baptism by immersion (Matthew 3:16; Doctrine and Covenants 20:72–74)
- Blessing of children (Doctrine and Covenants 20:70)
- Conferring the Holy Ghost (Doctrine and Covenants 20:68; 33:15)
- Conferring the priesthood (Doctrine and Covenants 84:6–16; 107:41–52)
- Temple ordinances (Doctrine and Covenants 124:39)
- Marriage in the new and everlasting covenant (Doctrine and Covenants 132:19–20).

Vicarious ordinances are performed by...living person[s] in behalf of [those] who [are] dead. These ordinances take effect only when those for whom the ordinances were performed accept them, keep the covenants associated with them, and become sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise. Such ordinances are performed today within temples. (See [Gospel Library > Scriptures > Guide to the Scriptures > Ordinances](#))

Repentance: A change of mind and heart that brings a fresh attitude toward God, oneself, and life in general. Repentance implies that a person turns away from evil and turns his heart and will to God, submitting to God’s commandments and desires and forsaking sin. True repentance comes from a love for God and a sincere desire to obey His commandments. All accountable persons have sinned and must repent in order to progress toward salvation. Only through the Atonement of Jesus Christ can our repentance become effective and accepted by God.

(See [Gospel Library > Scriptures > Guide to the Scriptures > Repent, Repentance](#))



How do you feel about your relationship with God and about your need to repent?



Record Your Feelings:

Study and Discuss: Laws and Ordinances

- Study the following sections in *Preach My Gospel*, Chapter 3, Lesson 5 “Laws and Ordinances,” including the scriptures referenced in each section.
 1. Learn about the Laws, Ordinances, and Commandments
 2. Priesthood and Auxiliaries
 3. Missionary Work
 4. Eternal Marriage
 5. Temples and Family History
 6. Service
 7. Teaching and Learning in the Church
 8. Endure to the End
- Plan to discuss what you learn with your missionary preparation class, your Sunday School teacher, quorum or auxiliary leader, a family member, a class member, or a friend.
- Write down the impressions you feel and ideas you learn through these discussions about how you can build up your relationship with the Lord through repentance and obedience to His laws and observing His ordinances.

Prepare to Serve

- Review *Preach My Gospel*, Chapter 3, Lesson 5 “Laws and Ordinances,” the section “Prepare to Teach.” Follow the guidelines given as you prepare to teach others about laws and ordinances.
- At least once a week until you are called to serve as a full time missionary, find someone who is learning the gospel, and use these guidelines to adopt your teaching about laws and ordinances to the person’s spiritual needs. Ask the person to give you feedback and suggestions on how you can improve. Develop your teaching skills by applying the suggested improvements.
- Read and do all the exercises pertaining to the principle of self-reliance in “Receive Temple Ordinances” in Chapter 12 of the self-reliance booklet *My Foundation for Self-Reliance*. If you have not done so, ask your quorum or auxiliary leader about joining a self-reliance group in your ward or stake. Plan to complete the twelve-week group process as part of your missionary preparation.