

H. *Grace*: All God's acts are acts of grace. Grace is apportioned to people proportionately as they conform to the standards of personal righteousness.

I. *Mormon*: A nickname of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members.

J. *Salvation*: Christ's death brought release from the grave and gives universal immortality. The kingdom (Celestial, Terrestrial or Telestial) to which one is resurrected depends upon one's spiritual and temporal activities on earth.

K. *Sister*: A common term of greeting to a female member of the LDS church.

L. *Word of Wisdom* or *Code of Health*: A list of substances to indulge in or abstain from in order to be protected from the advances of evil. Abstain from wine, strong drink, tobacco, meats in the summertime, and all hot drinks.

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## **A Lexicon of Latter-day Saints Terminology – Part Two**

### V. Temple Works

A. *Baptism for the Dead*: Baptism is essential for all worthy children to become heirs of salvation in God's kingdom. Many people have not been given the opportunity to be baptized in their own lifetime due to the accident of time or geography. Therefore to provide the opportunity for eternal life, the LDS church accepts responsibility and hopes to perform such a sacrament for every living soul entitled to receive it. All worthy baptized Mormons twelve years of age and over may be baptized for deceased non-Mormons. This is done by proxy and necessitates an extensive genealogical library.

B. *Marriage*: Marriages performed in the Temples are for the present and forever, if the vows are kept. The highest level of the Celestial Kingdom is only for those who have been so sealed. As baptism is the gate to the Celestial Kingdom, celestial marriage is the gate to exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom.

C. *Other Temple Works*: Other temple works are washings, anointing, endowments, and sealings.

### VI: Clergy

*Priesthood*: There are two male priesthoods: Melchizedek and Aaronic. Both are reserved for male members of the LDS church and hold the only authority for

ordination, baptism, and other essential ordinances.

- A. *Aaronic Priesthood*: Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were conferred the Aaronic priesthood on May 15, 1829, by John the Baptist. The priesthood is for males twelve years of age and over. It includes, in ascending order, Deacons (twelve-year-old boys), Teachers (fourteen-year-old boys) and Priests (sixteen-year-old boys) and Bishops (those in charge of wards).
- B. *Melchizedek Priesthood*: Peter, James, and John restored the ancient Melchizedek Priesthood in June, 1829, upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. This priesthood includes, according to function, the offices of elder, (men eighteen years and over who usually subsequently serve two years as a missionary for the LDS church), Seventy, High Priest, Patriarch or Evangelist, and Apostle.

## VII. Church Structure

- A. *Temple*: Holy sanctuaries wherein sacred ordinances, rites, and ceremonies are performed that pertain to salvation and required activities to enter the Kingdom of God are called temples. They are the most sacred places of worship on earth. They each are a house of the Lord where God and his Spirit may dwell. Only worthy Mormons are eligible to enter.
- B. *General Authority*: The term General Authority refers to the leaders who

have the highest authority including: the First President, Council of the Twelve, First and Second Councils of the Seventy, and Presiding Bishopric.

- C. *Tabernacle*: Tabernacles are large historic meeting halls, the best known of which is on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- D. *Stake*: A geographical grouping of wards is called a stake.
- E. *Wards*: The smallest ecclesiastical unit of the LDS church equivalent to the local congregation is called a ward. A developing ward is called a “branch”.
- F. *Bishop*: The Bishop is the presiding ward officer.
- G. *Elder*: Elder is one of five officers in the Melchizedek priesthood. Also, it is the common title for men holding the Melchizedek priesthood, which includes most active LDS males eighteen years of age or older.

## VIII. Other Terms

- A. *Atonement*: When Adam sinned, he brought about temporal death and spiritual death. Temporal death is the separation of the spirit and the physical body. Spiritual death is separation from God. Because Jesus died and rose, the body and spirit are reunited in immortality. Immortality then comes as a free gift but does not refer to where eternity will be spent—that is, heaven or hell. Eternal life is spent with God and is

achieved only by obeying the fullness of the gospel law.

- B. *Baptism*: The only recognized baptism must be performed by an authorized member of the priesthood, by immersion, and for those eight years old or older. Baptism is one of the requirements for the Celestial Kingdom.
- C. *Brother*: A common term of greeting to a male member of the LDS church.
- D. *Christian*: Mormons believe that anyone who believes in Jesus or claims to be a Christian is a Christian. This would include Protestants, Roman Catholicism, Greek Orthodox, Latter-day Saints, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and any others who claim to believe in the divinity of Jesus.
- E. *Deseret*: A Reformed Egyptian word (a language known only by Joseph Smith) meaning “honey bee”, from the *Book of Mormon*. It was the original name given to the western territory into which the early Latter-day Saints came.
- F. *Exaltation*: The kind of life God lives, the culmination of the eternal progression. Exaltation is the highest level in the Celestial Kingdom, which is achieved through the gate of celestial marriage and consists of the continuation of the family unit in eternity.
- G. *Gentile*: A term often used for those who are not Mormon.