

310.1 Compasses and Commandments (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 42, Updated)

[“I Will Write It in Their Hearts”](#)

This episode is about my absolute, all time favorite topic. My life’s passion. What “burns in my bones”. It is about human nature, well-being, and goodness. It is about motivation. It is the core of the gospel, which is about becoming better versions of ourselves, practicing and putting on hints of godhood until and as we become more like our Heavenly Parents.

Class Member Reading: Jeremiah 16; 23; 29; 31; Ezekiel 11:17-20; Ezekiel 36:24-28; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

Additional Reading: Jeremiah 3; 9; 13; 30; 32:37-42; 33; 35

Other Reading: None

Productive Sunday School

1. Doing the right thing
2. Doing the right thing for the right reason
3. What is the right thing?
4. What is the right reason?
5. Getting to the right
6. Conclusion: Hacking human nature

Productive Sunday School

Doing the right thing

(I think this is a fantastic target. Morality is the outcome, and ethics is the method. I think social norms and traditional morality gets most of us farther than we could get to otherwise. Social wisdom is a powerful force that has developed over thousands of years if not far more.)

Doing the right thing for the right reason

(I think this is less important, but still important. Some motivations are more resilient than others. If we do what is right because we are told to, we are vulnerable to temptation and opportunity. I think a good target is to respect what is right, and understand the underlying principles (both spirit and letter of the law)

What is the right thing?

(Conservative instincts are often sound, but lack of understanding compromises the principles, and can even backfire!) (Sex only within marriage can often lead to lack of education, lack of understanding the principles, which have to do with respecting the other person involved and the significance of sexuality, which is bigger than any of our rational thinking, which is why it is best expressed in a mature, committed context)

(Talk about my conversation in the car with the kids about whether anything in a video game is wrong)

8 year old: It could make you more violent

I said I could also get upset because my game is being interrupted (which isn't my game, it is my response to the game) Impact and response

My equation for what is right: I believe our consciousness/intelligence/agency (in the LDS sense) is what makes things right or wrong: A right choice is one that is defensible to the best versions of all those impacted by that choice. A choice that treats everyone as a whole person, not as a means to an end.

What is the right reason? This is where we get to the heart of this lesson, pun intended.

Stages of faith.

- 1) Doing what's right
- 2) Understanding why you do what is right (underlying principles) (We will be able to explain and defend what we do, but are still vulnerable based on our ability and strength to follow through on our beliefs and principles)
- 3) Becoming someone who does what is right

The most powerful, resilient motivation is internalization, character, when we have become versions of ourselves that simply do the right thing. We don't just do what is right and good because we believe in it, we do the right thing because we have BECOME someone who does the right thing. This is how we believe God works... God is God and God is good because that is what God is, full stop.

Getting to the right

We are as good as our contexts require and genetics allow

Priming

5% freedom/agency that can make all the difference

How can we choose the contexts that will facilitate our better selves? We become what we practice.

Our words communicate what we want to be true; our actions communicate what is true
INtegrity/character is about aligning our words and actions. Gospel is about becoming

Conclusion: Hacking human nature

Areas of agency

- 1) Freedom to decide what we feel
- 2) Freedom to decide how we react
- 3) Freedom to choose our contexts

(As we've discussed, #3 is KEY, and does catalyze change in the other areas)

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