

Chapter 16

Why Do People Leave their Religion? Or their Marriage?

The simple answer is because their personal foundation is not on a spiritual foundation in their personal lives. It is in a person(s), place(s) or thing(s). And when the real tests and trials of life come, they abandon themselves, their true potential ⁱ and therefor others. They have forgotten to stand in their holy place ⁱⁱ and be a manifestation of a divine and holy character. This answer could be applied to many questions because it is really about our accountable to our own divine potential, recognized or not.

If our foundation is “in” the attributes of godliness [a divine and holy character] we would never leave ⁱⁱⁱ because we are rooted and grounded in the very nature that God Himself or Christ is rooted and grounded in! ^{iv} If we mess up, the eternal principle of agency, repentance and forgiveness is always available to us.

On the other hand, people whose foundation is in the **nouns** (person(s), place(s) or thing(s) struggle with commitments, covenants, morality, lies, bearing false witness of their neighbor, gossip, money, power, ego, and many other issues that bring unhappiness, sadness, and ungratefulness in the end to themselves.^v

However, people who are founded or grounded in the **verbs** of divine nature, godliness and holiness of character are on the “sure foundation” ^{vi} found in “the fruit of the Holy Spirit” from the “tree of life” ^{vii} and become in thought, word and deed as Christ and our Father in Heaven are.^{viii} “What manner of men ought ye to be?... even as I am” ^{ix}

Here is the paradox.^x If you make Christ or Father [the noun only] your foundation you will gradually fall away little by little, because the nouns

outside of ourselves do not and cannot *secure* us to the “spirit of the law” or truth itself ^{xi} that will and can make us free; we must change our thinking to the *verbs* of becoming like them ^{xii} without the judgement! ^{xiii}

You see, the Devils know God, [Christ and Father] (the nouns) but they do nothing about “becoming” like them! They, like many mortals at the time of temptation do not desire to become like God in character and attribute because it does not serve their purpose or agenda now [at that moment in time]. They love the lie. They get caught up in the moment of gossip, temptation, or anger. They love the pleasure or thought of immorality more than godliness of character. They embrace their own pride or carnal nature first instead of god/God first. They do not hunger and thirst after righteousness unceasingly ^{xiv} [a godly and holy character].^{xv} If we forget who we really are, then the bigger picture for religion and marriage ^{xvi} will be veiled and we will be in the dark.

Supporting Scriptures / The Holy Grail for Religion & Marriage

ⁱ “Ye were also in the beginning with the Father; that which is Spirit, even the Spirit of truth” (Doctrine and Covenants | Section 93:23). [The Spirit of truth is the Spirit of Divine Nature]

ⁱⁱ “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation [this is our fallen and carnal nature], spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)” (Matthew 24:15). [The “holy place” is our potential, a divine and holy character].

ⁱⁱⁱ “And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, if ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?” (Alma 5:26).

^{iv} “It is scarcely necessary here to observe what we have previously noticed: That the glory which the Father and the Son have, is because they are just and holy beings; and that *if they were lacking in one attribute or perfection which they have, the glory which they have, never could be enjoyed by them*; for **it requires them to be precisely *what* they are in order to enjoy it**: and if the Savior gives this

glory to any others, he must do it in the very way set forth in his prayer to his Father: [John 17] by making them one [in holiness of character] with him, as he and the Father are one” [Lectures on Faith 7:15] This is the spiritual foundation!

v “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth” (Exodus 20:4).

vi “Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (New Testament | 2 Timothy 2:19 - 22).

vii “And it came to pass that I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God [meaning godliness of character]; and I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God” (Book of Mormon | 1 Nephi 11:25).

viii “But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. **And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.** If we live in the Spirit [of Holiness of character], let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:22 - 26).

ix “Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am” (Book of Mormon | 3 Nephi 27:27).

x “That Christ may dwell *in* your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded *in love*,
May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” [Ephesians 3: 17-19].

^{xi} “Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, **when the *true worshippers* shall worship the Father *in spirit and in truth***: for the Father seeketh such to worship him” (New Testament | John 4:22 - 23). Ponder also the word “Holiness” in LDS Bible Dictionary.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/holiness?lang=eng>

^{xii} “For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy [meaning to be baptized in or immersed in divine nature]; for I *am* holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves [with a fallen and carnal nature] with any manner of creeping ***thing*** that creepeth upon the earth” (Old Testament | Leviticus 11:44).

^{xiii} “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote **[the mote is the noun of unrighteousness]** that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam **[the beam is also the noun of unrighteousness]** that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother: Let me pull the mote out of thine eye—and behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye.” (Book of Mormon | 3 Nephi 14:1 - 5).

^{xiv} [This promise is for men, women and children] “Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let ***virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly***; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine **[power and authority of righteousness]** of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever” (D&C Section 121:45 - 46).

^{xv} “For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Ephesians 5:9).

^{xvi} **Two Churches**/ the bigger spiritual picture: “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain. ***Pure religion*** and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To

visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from [our fallen and carnal nature] the world” (New Testament | James 1:26 - 27).

“And he said unto me: Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, **[those whose personal foundation is in the attributes and character of godliness, virtue and holiness of character]** and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth. And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people. And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few...” (1 Nephi 14:10 -30).

One Marriage/ the bigger spiritual picture: “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God” (New Testament | Revelation 19:7 - 9).

“THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. **[The bridegroom is Christ and the bride is the “church of the First born” who are truly “born of God” (godliness), virtue and holiness of character]**

And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: **[“oil” symbolizes being filled with the attributes and character of godliness, virtue and holiness found in divine nature]**. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, *Not so*; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

(New Testament | Matthew 25:1 - 13)

The reason people leave their “sure foundation” is because they are off in their thinking and choose to follow their own fallen and carnal nature to their own unhappiness [2 Timothy 3:1-7]. If our “first love” and “sure foundation” [in our personal lives] is in the attributes, character and perfections of godliness, virtue and holiness we would never have to leave “pure religion” or our marriage with our spouse or God. It is only through “pure religion” that we are truly “sealed” to each other and God. It is how true relationships develop and endure forever! “Trust in the LORD [the attributes and character of godliness] with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Old Testament | Proverbs 3:5 - 6).

Parentheses, brackets and highlighting added for clarity.

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