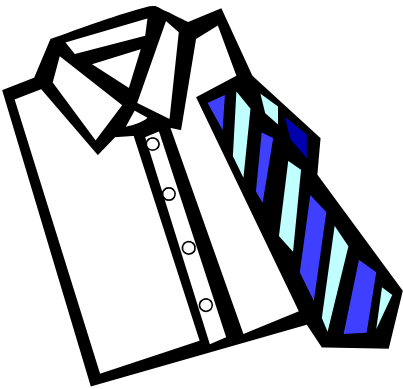


Years ago a dear Relief Society sister stated,

“The best way to support the priesthood is to have a clean, pressed, white shirt hanging in the closet at all times.”



This advice holds true even today. There are many things we as women in the church can do to support the priesthood. To support means “to promote the interests or cause of;...to uphold or defend as valid or right” (Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed. (1993), “Support,” 1184).

“Just as everyone in the Church benefits from the priesthood, so everyone is responsible for honoring and sustaining the priesthood. Priesthood bearers are continually reminded ‘that the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon principles of righteousness’ (D&C 121:36). Women are likewise counseled to honor the priesthood, to be grateful for its power, and to show respect to those who hold it.” (“Lesson 13: Women and the Priesthood” The Latter-day Saint Women: Basic Manual for Women, Part A, 91).

We support the priesthood when we treat our husbands with gentleness, kindness, and love. The Prophet Joseph Smith counseled the Relief Society to “teach women how to behave towards their husbands, to treat them with mildness and affection. When a man is borne down with trouble, when he is perplexed with care and difficulty, if he can meet with mildness, it will calm down his soul and soothe his feelings; when his mind is going to despair, it needs a solace of affection and kindness” (History of the Church, 4:606-7).

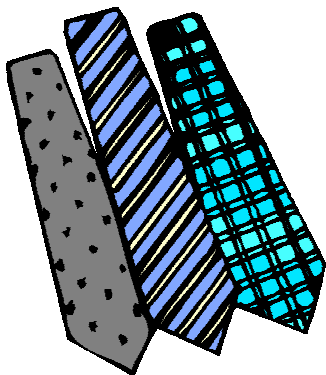


IN A REVELATION GIVEN TO EMMA SMITH, THE WIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH, THE ROLE OF A WIFE AND HER RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRIESTHOOD IS SET FORTH. THE LORD TOLD HER:

"THOU ART AN ELECT LADY, WHOM I HAVE CALLED. ...

"AND THE OFFICE OF THE CALLING SHALL BE FOR A COMFORT UNTO MY SERVANT, JOSEPH SMITH, JUN., THY HUSBAND, IN HIS AFFLICTIONS, WITH CONSOLING WORDS. ...

"CONTINUE IN THE SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS, AND BEWARE OF PRIDE. LET THY SOUL DELIGHT IN THY HUSBAND, AND THE GLORY WHICH SHALL COME UPON HIM.



**"Keep my commandments continually and a crown of righteousness thou shalt receive"
(D&C 25:3, 5, 14-15)**

"As women in the Church, we can have great influence on the priesthood holders in our home. We can support and encourage our husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons in fulfilling their priesthood responsibilities. If we request a blessing and then honor that blessing, we communicate our support of the priesthood. We can also strengthen the priesthood bearers in our home by including them in our prayers. We need to encourage and gently remind priesthood leaders in our homes to honor and magnify their priesthood callings. Young women as well as mothers can do much to encourage young men to attend their meetings and prepare to serve missions."

"When a wife has a positive attitude about her husband's duties in the Church, it makes it easier for him to carry out those duties. Her attitude also communicates to their children that having the priesthood in the home is a great blessing."

"Just as a righteous woman can exert much influence for good by sustaining the priesthood bearers in her home, she can also strengthen the Church when she supports the leaders in her branch or ward and district or stake. We support our leaders when we accept Church callings willingly and fulfill them faithfully, realizing that a call from the priesthood is a call from the Lord. We can honor the counsel of priesthood leaders – our husbands, home teachers, bishops or branch presidents, stake or district leaders, and General Authorities. We should refrain from criticizing priesthood leaders and teach our children to do the same. Sustaining and supporting the priesthood is more than just raising our hands or saying that we support the priesthood. It is learning, praying, obeying, and serving a good cause." ("Lesson 13: Women and the Priesthood," The Latter-day Saint Woman; Basic Manual for Women, Part A, 91)

**THE PRIESTHOOD IS A GREAT BLESSING.
WOMEN, WHO ARE TRYING TO HONOR THE
PRIESTHOOD, BLESS THEIR FAMILIES AND THE
CHURCH.**



SUPPORT THE PRIESTHOOD: A CHECKLIST FOR YOU

- BE HAPPY WHEN HE GOES OUT THE DOOR
- SMILE WHEN HE GETS HOME
- ASK FOR A BLESSING
- CONCENTRATE ON HIS GOOD POINTS
- STAND UP AND PUSH
- PRAY FOR HIM
- HAVE A LISTENING EAR
- TREAT HIM AS YOU WANT HIM TO BECOME
- HONOR BLESSINGS
- SUPPORT BISHOP IN CALLINGS
- ATTEND MEETINGS
- BE HONEST IN YOUR PRAISE
- MAKE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
- BE A COUNSELOR, WHEN ASKED
- ENCOURAGE PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS
- REFRAIN FROM CRITICIZING PRIESTHOOD LEADERS
- HONOR OUR HUSBANDS AS THEY FOLLOW THE SAVIOR

