Case Study #1 Ryan Adams

# Before Class

## Step 1:

Review the following talks from the Unit 1 required readings and answer the following questions. Each answer must include **at least one quote** and **your personal thoughts**.

### Talks:

* [The Love and Laws of God](https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/russell-m-nelson/love-laws-god/) – President Russel M. Nelson
* [Love and Law](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2009/10/love-and-law?lang=eng) – President Dallin H. Oaks
* [Divine Love](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2003/02/divine-love?lang=eng) – President Russell M. Nelson

### Questions:

1. How are God’s love and God’s law interrelated?

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| **Personal Thoughts** | **Quote(s)** |
| He has laws so that we can choose to obery on our own. God has certain rules that give us the aility to feel more of his love if we follow them. It doesn’t mean God loves us more, it just means that by obedience we receive the spirit or the Holy Ghost more abundantly because we are closer to Him, and therefore we feel Him with us giving us love. We can’t understand love or the law fully without the Holy Ghost. | The effect of God’s commandments and laws is not changed to accommodate popular behavior or desires. If anyone thinks that godly or parental love for an individual grants the loved one license to disobey the law, he or she does not understand either love or law. |

1. What are the similarities or differences between the terms “divine love” and “unconditional love”? Which title best describes God’s love? Why?

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| **Personal Thoughts** | **Quote(s)** |
| We have unconditional love and conditional blessings. A lot can be done to receive more blessings, but nothing can be done to be saved by Jesus’ atonement, the ultimate show of unconditional love for us. Gods love is divine and unconditional because He is a much higher power that doesn’t need to love is, but he loves us all equally anyways. | The Lord declares: “All who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof. …  “And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that received a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God. |

1. Does God’s love supersede or trump his laws and commandments? Explain.

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| **Personal Thoughts** | **Quote(s)** |
| No, laws and commandments are gifts to us because He loves us. He understands wat we each need to progress and become like He is. We are seeking after Exaltation and that process is very difficult and there will be much suffering, most of which will be caused by our own carnal selves. | My dear brothers and sisters, divine laws are God’s gifts to His children. Just as our family’s rules kept our children safe as they grew to adulthood, just as divine laws governing the heart and the flight of airplanes keep you safe on an operating table or while traveling, abiding by God’s laws will keep you safe as you progress toward eventual exaltation. Let me say it as succinctly as I can: As you abide by God’s laws, you *are* progressing toward exaltation. |

## Step 2:

Explore the following and provide your thoughts in the box below:

Without the guiding influence of the Holy Ghost or inspired Church leaders, many people develop a worldview, opinion, lifestyle, or attitude that is not in harmony with the eternal laws of God. Even members of the Church sometimes fall into this trap. What should a person do if they find themselves in disharmony with revealed and eternal truths? What would a faithful approach look like for this person?

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| A person that is separating themselves from God more should participate in daily repentance and build good habits that build their spiritual confidence before God. They should focus on aligning their will with our Heavenly Fathers, which takes a lot of time and patience during prayer to truly communicate with Him. Once they know His will, they must do everything in their power to accomplish it. Noibody is perfect. |

# During and After Class

## Step 3:

Complete the following Case Study Activity by reading the scenario and providing the information requested.

### Scenario:

Your high school friends John and Janice have been dating for two years. Both are inactive members of the Church now. They have discussed marriage but are afraid they may not be successful because both have siblings who divorced within a few years of being married. On the other hand, they have several friends who have never married but are living together with their boyfriend or girlfriend. They seem happy and their relationships healthy, as far as John and Janice can tell. "Marriage is just a piece of paper," one of their friends told them. "And besides," he continued, "if getting married is important to you, what better way to see if you're truly compatible than to test-drive the relationship by living together first?" They are seriously considering moving in that direction. Both John and Janice love God and know that he loves them, and feel that because of that love, that he (God) will support whatever decision they make. They know that you're a member of the Church and they have always valued your opinion. Now they're asking what advice or perspective you have to offer them about their situation.

### Questions:

1. What assumptions or premises are John and Janice buying into? How are these assumptions and premises affecting their conclusions about marriage and cohabitation?

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| They are buying into the idea that cohabitation is like a trial run of marriage. They have been told that they will find out if they are compatible by living with each other. They have also been told that marriage I just a piece of paper, making it seem like a casual or optional thing for people that love each other. |

1. What teachings from the scriptures and prophets we have studied in this unit persuade you that cohabitation is not the best approach?

(Provide **at least two scriptures** and **two prophet’s quotes**. Include the actual scriptures and quotes in your submission, along with the reference).

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| * **Genesis 2:24:** "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." * **President Russell M. Nelson:** "Marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the eternal plan of the Father."   These emphasize the divine institution of marriage and its importance in God's plan.   * **1 Corinthians 7:2:** "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." * **President Boyd K. Packer:** "Living together without marriage destroys something inside all who participate." |

1. Using the information provided in your responses to questions 1 & 2, what advice do you have for John and Janice?

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| I would give them the scriptures that I found and just tell them what I would do in their situation, and if they trust me as a friend they should listen to me and choose to get married. |