
ON BECOMING

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Learning Outcomes

- Understand the concept of “becoming” as a long-term development of character rather than just compliance with rules.
- Align professional engineering decisions with the attributes of Jesus Christ, such as integrity and selfless service.
- Evaluate how daily safety and ethical choices contribute to one’s eternal potential and relationship with God.

Reading

- Foundations of Spiritual and Physical Safety: with Chemical Processes; Chapter 2, Sections 3 and 7.
- BYU President Shane Reese’s talk [Becoming BYU: An Inaugural Response](#)

1 Ethics and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Ethic	Gospel of Jesus Christ
Deontology (Duty)	Obey the laws and ordinances of the Gospel
Virtue (Becoming)	Follow the Savior and become like Him
Contractarianism	Make and keep covenants
Utilitarianism	Love God and others for “[God] doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life that he may draw all men unto him.” ¹

2 On Becoming

The God of this world who condescended and came to earth as a man was perfectly obedient to his father. He was an example of virtue. He invited us to follow Him:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”²

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”³

“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”⁴

“Follow me.”⁵

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”⁶

We can become like Jesus Christ as we gain knowledge about Him, practice being like Him (keeping covenants, failing, and repenting), and eventually mastering His attributes.

President Dallin Oaks of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has said:

The Apostle Paul taught that the Lord’s teachings and teachers were given that we may all attain “the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”⁷. This process requires far more than acquiring knowledge. It is not even enough for us to be convinced of the gospel; we must act and think so that we are converted by it. In contrast to the institutions of the world, which teach us to know something, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to **become** something.⁸

That something is like Christ. As we keep covenants, we can develop attributes that he has: charity, integrity, humility, courage, patience, diligence, and selfless service to others.

Document Your Vision

What vision do you have of what you can become? Write that vision down of what your character looks like as that person. If it is hard for you to picture that, imagine what God would want you to become and write that down.

3 Motivations and Desires

3.1 Life After Death

We know relatively very little about life after death. Prophets have spoken that this life is a time to prepare to meet God.

4 Divine Command Theory

How the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints differs from other Christian theologies: God still has the choice to sin...

²Ephesians 4:13

³Dallin H. Oaks, “The Challenge to Become,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 6.

⁴John 6:35

⁵John 21:19

⁶Matthew 5:48

⁷Ephesians 4:13

⁸Dallin H. Oaks, “The Challenge to Become,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 6.



Figure 1: Painting of Jesus Christ by Hofmann

4.1 Euthypro Dilemma

5 Planning Your Life

Planning your life assessment.

Action Items

1. Complete the "Planning your Life Assignment" by creating a diagram of significant life events and key goals for one specific facet of your life, such as your professional or spiritual development.
2. Personal Reflection: Read Section II.7 in the sources and write two paragraphs describing who you want to "become" by the end of your earthly life, focusing on character traits rather than just career milestones.
3. Which scriptures emphasize that our decisions should be based on our eternal existence? Why did you choose those scriptures?
4. What specific benefits have you seen as you have honored covenants with God?
5. How is building relationships with others and God an ethical approach to those mentioned previously?