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2025.11.14

Answering Gospel Questions

One doctrinal aspect of the Church that I feel individuals could have questions about is the organization of leadership in the Church. Individuals could have questions such as "Why is leadership in the Church organized in the way that it is?", "Are Church leaders really called by God?", "Do we really need organized leadership in the Church at all?", and so on. I personally don't find myself grappling with these questions but I have a dear sister who does.

I think there are numerous ways in which the resources in Gospel Library and other divinely appointed sources can be used to help someone navigate their feelings about Church organization. By reading the New Testament, we can see that Christ himself organized his church and called leaders. There are many additional scriptures about Church leaders who were inadequate, imperfect, and despite their short-comings, did what they could to serve as God needed them. The "Seeking Answers to Questions" section advises askers to "Be patient with those who want to help." Most importantly, if we feel hurt or taken back by a Church leader, we can rely on Christ and seek peace through the Holy Ghost.

As I've read through the "Helping Others with Questions" section, I've felt that the principle I most want to remember and apply at this time is the principle of loving without compromise. Over time, it has been unfortunate for me to watch my sister grow up in the gospel, love the gospel, serve a mission, return with faith, realize her struggles, and seemingly rewrite history with the perspective of "The Church was never good to me." While these negative shifts in perspective tend to frustrate me, I never want to forget the great love that I have

for my sister. There's a beautiful quote that can be derived from the "Helping Others with Questions" section. The quote is this: "Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ [...] love those who have questions." Although I may feel hurt at times, I need to understand that she does also. As her brother, I want to be by her side.

I feel like there are many good principles in the "Helping Others with Questions" section that I can use to help address concerns or questions she may have. I think the most valuable principle is to listen with love. As I believe is the case for most people, I think her faith struggles have stemmed from negative experiences she has had in her life. I don't think she needs to repeatedly hear my testimony of the things she struggles to believe. I think she needs to hear "I'm sorry. That must have been really hard." I think she needs to feel heard and feel loved. The introduction to the "Helping Others with Questions" section states "Regardless of their choices, your relationship can remain an influence for good in their lives. A faithful friend or family member can serve as a beacon should they seek a way back to a life of faith and Church activity." In other words, in the moments when she chooses not to be in Christ's light, I will stand by her side, and I will choose to have Christ's light within me.