

Are confidences (secret trusts) a part of the plan of salvation?

Answers to Questions Concerning the Restored Gospel from HisWorkmanship.net

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Question: [Are confidences \(secret trusts\) a part of the plan of salvation?](#)

Answer(s)

No. For years, those who have kept confidences (secret trusts of confidentiality), especially among the priesthood, were considered faithful and trustworthy among the people. However, this is not the way God views the matter.

In His kingdom on earth, Zion, there will be no confidences. We must begin now to prepare ourselves to live honestly and perfectly in the light of truth (i.e. in the Light of Jesus Christ) so that when our Lord returns we may abide with Him in His kingdom. For we have true fellowship with Him and each other only if we walk in the light as He is in the light (I John 1).

Those ordained to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ are to preach nothing but repentance and faith on our Lord. Those who enter into confidences are walking in darkness at noonday, not having faith to walk in the light. By entering into secret agreements or arrangements with those to whom they have been sent to minister, they are obligating themselves to other men over God. Thus, when the Spirit of the Lord moves upon them, those who are bound by confidence must consider whether or not their obedience to the Lord would compromise a confidence. Placing oneself in such a predicament is unconscionable to a servant of the Lord. By restricting themselves to serve men over God, can they really be the servant of the Lord? Paul's confidence was that if he chose to please men, he *should* not be the servant of Christ.

*For do I now please men, or God?
or do I seek to please men?
For if I yet pleased men,
I should not be the servant of Christ.*

Galatians 1:10

While we all have been called to place our confidence in the Lord, none have been commanded to enter into confidences with each other. Instead, all are to warn the nations of our Lord's return, at which time He will cause all peoples to be brought before Him to be judged

according to their deeds done in the flesh – including all their secret acts and the thoughts and intents of their hearts, which He has said will be declared from the housetops.

Again, priesthood members are called to speak with the warning voice, which was commissioned by Jesus Christ to go forth in these latter days (D&C 1:1). They are not called to enter into confidences with those to whom they are to preach repentance. Such confidences are tantamount to secret combinations.

What about privacy? **The call of repentance is not a call to confess the sins of others. It is a call to confess our own sins.** Private matters should remain private and not gossiped about. **But they are not to be kept as confidences**, lest individual priesthood members become compromised by obliging themselves to keep the evil secrets of individual church members – as opposed to remaining at liberty to obey the instruction of the Spirit of truth in calling everyone to repentance (John 16:7-11). At the same time, remember also that those who sin in private are to be reprov'd in private. Those who sin in public are to be reprov'd in public (D&C 42:23).

What about personal, private matters? They are just that, personal and private. But problems arise when we confuse addressing sin with dealing in personal, private matters. Too often a false cover for sin is cloaked under the cover and claim of privacy.

Sin is a leavening agent that must be rooted out of the church. When it is embedded in personal, private matters, the only way to deal with it righteously is according to the scriptures. For someone caught in sin, claiming privacy in the matter is convenient. Nonetheless, each one's sin must be dealt with according to the doctrine and gospel of Jesus Christ.

Satan tempts us to hide our sins by confusing such matters through blurring the lines between privacy and sin. His aim is to bind priesthood and church member alike by keeping them bound in sin.

For a healthy, balanced perspective on these matters, recall how God sent Nathan to David (II Samuel 12) and John to Herod (John 14) to testify of their sins. Recall further how Jesus testified of the sins of the world (John 7:7). Our Lord likewise sends His servants, the priesthood, to call everyone to repent of their sins and return to the truth. The wicked will be angered at the revelation of truth, while those who *embrace the truth* will hold fast to God's Word by repenting of their sins so they may walk with Him in His light.

Just as those who came to John (Matthew 3, Mark 1) for baptism came to him confessing their sins, so likewise those who truly seek Jesus today will come to Him and His servants confessing their sins (cf. Acts 2 & 3). This truth points us to how we may know that someone has truly embraced the truth and departed from sin:

*By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins.
Behold, he will confess them and forsake them.*

DC 58:9d

*And again, I will give unto you a pattern in all things,
that ye may not be deceived;
For Satan is abroad in the land,
and he goeth forth deceiving the nations;
Wherefore he that prayeth whose spirit is contrite,
the same is accepted of me,*

if he obey mine ordinances.
He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite,
whose language is meek, and edifieth,
the same is of God,
if he obey mine ordinances.
And again, he that trembleth under my power
shall be made strong,
and shall bring forth fruits of praise, and wisdom,
according to the revelations and truths
which I have given you.
And again, he that is overcome
and bringeth not forth fruits,
even according to this pattern,
is not of me;
Wherefore by this pattern
*ye shall know the spirits **in all cases,***
under the whole heavens.
And the days have come,
according to men's faith it shall be done unto them.
Behold, this commandment is given unto all the elders
whom I have chosen.

DC 52:4b-5b

In summary, confidences are not a part of the gospel of salvation preached by Jesus Christ and His faithful servants. Rather, confidences are one of the many false traditions and doctrines that have hindered the progress of the members of the church of Jesus Christ in embracing the truth and looking upward in these latter days. Therefore, this practice must be repented of, both by priesthood and member alike. Remember the words of Jesus Christ: ***this is the condemnation, that men love darkness more than light*** (John 3:19,20). Confidences can only serve to keep souls trapped and drowning in a sea of darkness, under the condemnation of sin. See the following links for further discussion on this topic.

- [In Him is No Darkness at All](#)
- [Fruits Meet for Repentance and Common Consent](#)
- [A Remission of My Sins](#)
- [That Which is Sacred](#)

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