

## APPENDIX

### *A Commandment to Oliver Cowdery Received in 1829 (CHL)*

This commandment is included here because it is an early historical document that contains material similar to what was included in the Articles and Covenants of the church accepted in June 1830 (Document no. 25; LDS D&C 20; RLDS D&C 17). John Whitmer copied the commandment in the Book of Commandments and Revelations. Unfortunately the beginning and ending of the document is missing (BCR, 23-24). Footnotes show source ideas for Cowdery's commandment.

A Commandment from God unto Oliver how he should build up his church & the manner thereof

Saying Oliver listen to the voice of Christ your Lord & your God & your Redeemer & write the words which I shall command you concerning my Church my Gospel my Rock & my Salvation.<sup>1</sup> Behold the world is ripening in iniquity & it must needs be that the children of men are stirred up unto repentance both the Gentiles & also the House of Israel<sup>2</sup> for behold I command all men every where to repent & I speak unto you even as unto Paul mine apostle for ye are called even with that same calling with which he was called<sup>3</sup> Now therefore whosoever repenteth & humbleth himself before me & desireth to be baptized in my name shall ye baptize them<sup>4</sup>

And after this manner did he command me that I should baptize them Behold ye shall go down & stand in the water & in my name shall ye baptize them And now behold these are the words which ye shall say calling them by name saying Having authority given me of Jesus Christ I baptize you in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Ghost Amen And then shall ye immerse them in the water & come forth again out of the water & after this manner shall ye baptize in my name<sup>5</sup> For behold verily I say unto you that the Father & the Son & the Holy Ghost are one & I am in the Father & the Father in me & the Father & I are one.<sup>6</sup>

And ye are also called to ordain Priests & Teachers according to the gifts & callings of God unto men<sup>7</sup> & after this manner shall ye ordain them Ye shall pray unto the Father in my name & then shall ye lay your hands upon them & say In the name of Jesus Christ I ordain you to be a Priest or if he be a Teacher I ordain you to be a Teacher to preach repentance & remission of sins through Jesus Christ by the endurance of faith on his name to the end Amen<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wording similar to BC 15:3, 19; LDS D&C 18:4, 17; RLDS D&C 16:1, 4 (June 1829).

<sup>2</sup> BC 15:5; LDS D&C 18:6; RLDS 16:2.

<sup>3</sup> BC 15:11; LDS D&C 18:9; RLDS 16:3.

<sup>4</sup> Wording similar to 1830 BOM, 478; LDS 3 Ne. 11:23/RLDS 5:24 and BC 24:30; LDS D&C 20:37; RLDS D&C 17:7.

<sup>5</sup> 1830 BOM, 478; LDS 3 Ne. 11:23-27/RLDS 5:24-27 and BC 24:52-54; LDS D&C 20:73-74; RLDS 17:21.

<sup>6</sup> 1830 BOM, 478; LDS 3 Ne. 11:27/RLDS 5:27.

<sup>7</sup> 1830 BOM, 575; LDS Moro. 3:4/RLDS 3:3; BC 15:35; LDS D&C 18:32; RLDS D&C 16:5 and BC 24:42; LDS D&C 20:60; RLDS D&C 17:12.

<sup>8</sup> 1830 BOM, 575; LDS Moro. 3:2-3/RLDS 3:2.

And this shall be the duty of the Priest He shall kneel down & the members of the Church shall kneel also<sup>9</sup> which Church shall be called The Church of Christ & he shall pray to the Father in my name for the church & if it so be that it be built upon my Rock I will bless it And after that ye have prayed to the Father in my name ye shall preach the truth in soberness casting out none from among you but rather invite them to come<sup>10</sup>

And the Church shall oft partake of bread & wine & after this manner shall ye partake of it The Elder or Priest shall minister it & after this manner shall he do he shall kneel with the Church & pray to the Father in the name of Christ & then shall ye say O God the Eternal Father we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ to bless & sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son & witness unto thee O God the Eternal Father that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son & always remember him & keep his commandments which he hath given them that they may always have his spirit to be with them Amen<sup>11</sup>

And then shall ye take the cup & say O God the Eternal Father we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ to bless & sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it that they do [it] in remembrance of the blood of thy Son which was shed for them that they may witness unto thee O God the Eternal Father that they do always remember him that they may have his spirit to be with them Amen<sup>12</sup>

And now behold I give unto you a commandment that ye shall not suffer any one knowingly to partake of my flesh & blood unworthily when ye shall minister it for whoso eateth & drinketh my flesh & blood unworthily eateth & drinketh damnation to his soul Therefore if ye know that a man is unworthy to eat & drink of my flesh & blood ye shall forbid him nevertheless ye shall not cast him out from among you but ye shall minister unto him & shall pray for him unto the Father in my name & if it so be that he repenteth & is baptized in my name then shall ye receive him & shall minister unto him of my flesh & blood but if he repenteth not he shall not be numbered among my people that he may not destroy my people For behold I know my Sheep & they are numbered nevertheless ye shall not cast him out of your Synagogues or your places of worship for unto such shall ye continue to minister for ye know not but what they will return & repent & come unto me with full purpose of heart & I shall heal them & ye shall be the means of bringing Salvation unto them Therefore keep these sayings which I have commanded you that ye come not under condemnation for wo unto him whom the Father condemneth<sup>13</sup>

And the church shall meet together oft for prayer & sup[p]lication casting out none from your places of worship but rather invite them to come And each member shall speak & tell the church of their progress in the way to Eternal life<sup>14</sup> And there shall be no pride nor envying nor strifes nor malice nor idoletry [idolatry] nor witch crafts nor whoredoms nor fornications nor covetousness [covetousness] nor lying nor deceits nor no manner of iniquity & if any one is guilty of any or the least of these & doth not repent & show fruits meats for repentance they shall

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<sup>9</sup> 1830 BOM, 575; LDS Moro. 4:2/RLDS 4:3.

<sup>10</sup> 1830 BOM, 507; LDS 3 Ne. 27:8/RLDS 12:19-20. Cf. 1830 BOM, 492; LDS 3 Ne. 18:22-25/RLDS 8:53-56.

<sup>11</sup> 1830 BOM, 575; LDS Moro. 4:1-3/RLDS 4:1-4 and BC 24:56-57; LDS D&C 20:76-77; RLDS D&C 17:22.

<sup>12</sup> 1830 BOM, 575-76; LDS Moro. 5:1-2/RLDS 5:2-3 and BC 24:59; LDS D&C 20:79; RLDS D&C 17:23.

<sup>13</sup> 1830 BOM, 492; LDS 3 Ne. 18:28-33/RLDS 8:60-66.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. 1830 BOM, 492, 576; LDS 3 Ne. 18:22-25; Moro. 6:5/RLDS 3 Ne. 8:53-57; Moro. 6:6.

not be numbered among my people that they may not destroy my people<sup>15</sup>

And now I speak unto the Church Repent all ye ends of the Earth & come unto me & be baptized in my name which is Jesus Christ & endure to the end & ye shall be saved Behold Jesus Christ is the name which is given of the Father & there is none other name given whereby men can be saved Wherefore all men must take upon them the name which is given of the Father for in that name shall they be called at the last day Wherefore if they know not the name by which they are called they cannot have place in the Kingdom of my Father<sup>16</sup> Behold ye must walk uprightly before me & sin not & if ye do walk uprightly before me & sin not my grace is sufficient for you that ye shall be lifted up at the last day<sup>17</sup>

Behold I am Jesus Christ the Son of the living God I am the same which came unto my own & my own received me not I am the light which shineth in darkness & the darkness comprehendeth it not<sup>18</sup> these words are not of men nor of man but of me<sup>19</sup> Now remember the words of him who is the first & the last the light & the life of the world<sup>20</sup> And I Jesus Christ your Lord & your God & your Redeemer by the power of my Spirit have spoken it Amen<sup>21</sup> - And now if I have not authority to write these things judge ye behold ye shall know that I have authority when you & I shall be brought to stand before the judgment seat of Christ<sup>22</sup> Now may [the grace] of God the Father & our Lord Jesus Christ be & abide with you all & [finally] save you Eternally in his Kingdom through the Infinite atonement which is in Jesus Christ Amen<sup>23</sup>

Behold I am Oliver I am an Apostle of Jesus Christ<sup>24</sup> by the will of God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ Behold I have written the things which he hath commanded me for behold his word was unto me as a burning fire shut up in my bones & I was weary with forbearing & I could forbear no longer<sup>25</sup> Amen

Written in the year of our Lord & Saviour 1829 -- A true Copy of the articles of the Church of Christ &c.

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<sup>15</sup> Cf. 1830 BOM, 500; LDS 3 Ne. 21:19/RLDS 9:105; and BC 4:5. 1830 BOM, 492; LDS 3 Ne. 18:31/RLDS 8:63 and 1830 BOM, 211; LDS Mosiah 26:32/RLDS 11:141.

<sup>16</sup> BC 15:23-26; LDS D&C 18:22-25; RLDS D&C 16:4.

<sup>17</sup> Wording similar to BC 15:34; LDS D&C 18:31; RLDS D&C 16:5 and LDS D&C 17:8; RLDS D&C 15:3.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. BC 5:10; LDS D&C 6:21; RLDS D&C 6:10; BC 9:15; LDS D&C 10:57; RLDS D&C 3:14 and BC 10:12; LDS D&C 11:28-29; RLDS D&C 10:12.

<sup>19</sup> BC 15:37; LDS D&C 18:34; RLDS D&C 16:5.

<sup>20</sup> Wording similar to BC 9:19; LDS D&C 10:70; RLDS D&C 3:18.

<sup>21</sup> BC 15:50; LDS D&C 18:47; RLDS D&C 16:7.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. 1830 BOM, 548; LDS Ether 5:6/RLDS 2:5.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. 1830 BOM, 566; LDS Ether 12:41/RLDS 5:41; 1830 BOM, 577; LDS and RLDS Moro. 7:2; 1830 BOM, 585; LDS Moro. 9:26/RLDS 9:28; 1830 BOM, 79; LDS 2 Ne. 9:7/RLDS 6:15-16; and 1830 BOM, 319; LDS Alma 34:12/RLDS 16:213.

<sup>24</sup> LDS D&C 20:3; RLDS D&C 17:1.

<sup>25</sup> Ezra Booth, a former member of the church, wrote in 1831, "Cowdery's desires for this work were so keen and excessive, as, to use his own language, it `was unto me a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forebearing, and I could forbear no longer;' and he did in fact, issue some productions." Booth to Rev. Ira Eddy, November 24, 1831, *Ohio Star* 2 (December 8, 1831):1.