

Davis County Ex-Mormon meetup Sunday Mar 01, 2026, 02:30 PM

[All links from Invitations.](#)

How to Find us: Sunday Mar 01, 2026 meetup is 02:30 PM at Smiths Marketplace, 1370 W 200 N, Kaysville, UT 84037. Entering Smith's turn right, take the up staircase on the right side of Starbucks, turn right on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs, take 10 strides passing the lockers to the conference room entrance on the right. **Contact:** Francis 'Nelson' Henderson, 858-668-6943, francisnh12@gmail.com

Our purposes: First, when leaving Mormonism, people often find that they no longer have community or support. Our goal is to provide support for each other and to build community. So, whether you are a member, or left the church recently, or have been out for years, or were never Mormon but are looking for community, come and socialize with us and share your story.

Secondly, we uncover the fallacies, deception, and misinformation employed by the LDS Church to gain control over our lives.

We assist our meetup members wishing to post their own statement. Recommend www.wasmormon.org.



["The Grand Deception"](#) Art Carpenter compares line-by-line, teachings of the King James Version of the New Testament against LDS doctrines. See Art at: www.wasmormon.org.

["Full Exit Statement"](#) of Francis Nelson Henderson

Invitation: *Individual sovereignty*

Links: [Bending of the Mormon Soul](#)," [△](#) (37:23) by Jonathan Streeter.¹

In our law, which is just, self-ownership (personal sovereignty) must exist if one is to be free, hence subject to judgement under the law.

The word "Sovereignty"² itself means: Autonomy, independence, self-government, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, freedom or: Supreme "power" or independent authority. By personal sovereignty is meant the "power within" [to say no](#). Meaning we claim our own power over our own lives and allow others the right to do the same. To be accountable requires we be in this place of true, authentic, and self-generated power. Individual sovereignty is incompatible with Temple Covenants of Obedience, Sacrifice, Consecration, and Secrecy which threaten to defeat sovereignty.

Joseph Smith was uneducated and untrained in ethics or theology. His ignorance is apparent, and tragically, the Church he founded has not evolved past his limitations. His legacy of absolutism, secrecy, and obedience is codified into the LDS Temple ceremony.

¹ "Elder Oaks and the [Bending of the Mormon Soul](#)," [△](#) (37:23) by Jonathan Streeter. How controlling groups maintain a hold on the mind and hearts of members who internally disagree with leaders? Your own personal conscience cannot be trusted if it contradicts the Brethren.

² Individual sovereignty means that it is evil for any other person or Church to interfere with one's honest and peaceful choices. This criterion means use of Temple Covenants are acts of domination and control which disregard that being a free and sovereign person having purity of motive, and being free of coercion, and having the capacity to give informed consent, are necessary pre-conditions to any judgement of one's morality.

The modern Church replicates itself in the Temple where it creates new loyalists not by persuasion or evidence, but by progressively breaking down a person's sovereignty and rebuilding their identity around obedience to the institution. The temple reorients moral agency away from individual conscience and toward institutional authority. What is presented as sacred covenants are, in truth, **contracts of subjugation**, void for their deception, coercion, and moral corruption. They do not lead people to God; they lead people to dependence.

What appears to be devotion is in fact **the ceremonial dismantling of personal sovereignty**³, replacing inner moral discernment with institutional control. In this way, the temple does not merely symbolize Smith's authoritarian theology — it enacts it on the human soul.

By accepting the Temple Law of Obedience, members symbolically renounce their inner moral sovereignty. It marks the point at which the individual ceases to be an independent moral agent and becomes a managed subject. All that follows — secrecy, sacrifice, chastity, and consecration — rests on this initial surrender of the self

If a person can be persuaded that they are inherently evil, or that their mistakes make them unworthy, or that they are never alone because God is always watching and judging, then their sovereignty can be undermined. Their inner dignity, moral self-trust, and sense of personal power can be quietly dismantled.

Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, mastered this religious formula first developed as a tool of Biblical Christianity. He exploited four universal human vulnerabilities:

1. He first **convinced people they were broken by nature**, calling them “fallen,” “carnal, sensual, and devilish,” and “an enemy to God.” This shattered their trust in their own inner compass and made them desperate for rescue.
2. He then **offered forgiveness** to sincere, conscientious people **tormented by the memory of their mistakes**, positioning his Church as the exclusive channel through which God's forgiveness could flow.⁴
3. He **promised eternal life** to those who feared death, portraying his Church as the one who could secure their salvation and reunite them with loved ones beyond the grave.
4. Finally, he **demanding belief in his Restoration as the sole gateway to God**, claiming that salvation itself depended on accepting through baptism, his Church and he as God's latter-day prophet. This erased doubt by offering absolute certainty — at the price of surrendering independent thought.

³ [“What is Personal Sovereignty](#) and How do I get me some of that? ⁴ Unique ways to access your Autonomy,” Reya, Nov 20, 2016
“The experiences of feeling Complete... Worthy... Belonging... from within ourselves, ... we are Sovereign and free unto ourselves, yet remarkably interconnected and interdependent with all of life. This state of mind and heart comes with the recognition that we are never separate from our inner divinity, regardless of our human circumstances. It is in this recognition, this re-wiring of our beliefs and our purpose, that we remember our divine Sovereignty. For if we are never separate from the force of creation, then how can anyone control us? We are an island unto ourselves.

We are each the author of our own life; the creator of our own reality. As islands of Sovereignty unto ourselves, we recognize that each of us, alone, must take responsibility for ourselves. We accept the fact that by our beliefs, our thoughts, our intentions and our feelings, we create our own reality. And this deep visceral knowing allows us to disengage from the cycles of power, and the shame and blame games that would keep us there. We create our reality through the things we choose to keep our focus upon. This comes with great responsibility. The ability to respond to the life we are creating. No one else is responsible for how we feel, our state of being, what is happening to us. Ultimately, it is each of us that chooses what our reality is going to be.

We are responsible for our own beliefs, our words, our own emotions, our own actions. These create the world around us. So, we take back our power, extract ourselves from the cycle and place ourselves on the throne, at the hub of the wheel of our own life. There is no “They.” No one is coming to save us. The government will not do it. The angels. The aliens. We are the ones we have been waiting for. And we need to be on our own thrones to do our own work that is ours to do. We are the authors of this life of ours.”

⁴ Doctrine and Covenants 1:30; History of the Church, vol. 4, p. 461.

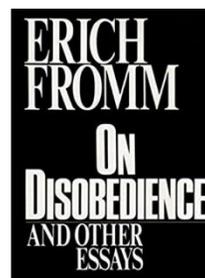
Mormonism’s attack on personal integrity and the conscience of Church members, using excommunication⁵ as a weapon, is a threat one must always be aware of. It establishes the reality that the Temple “Law of Obedience” is enforced⁶. However, those Covenants are first an abuse of power and secondly corrupt our motives for being good. The **sovereign** person therefore must be aligned in opposition to the Temple system that is behind such attacks on our morality and [integrity](#).

The Temple’s “Law of Obedience” becomes the backbone of this system—weaponized to demand conformity and institutionalize submission. Such covenants are morally invalid, not just because they are made without full knowledge and under emotional conditioning, but because they undercut the virtue in one’s motives, thus corrupting the authenticity of the **sovereign** soul. They are not divine mandates, they are human constructions pretending to be sacred.

-- The End --

Appendix: Disobedience, Authenticity, and Courage

According to Hebrew myth, by an act of disobedience, Adam and Eve became free and independent. Likewise, every individual must have the capacity to be disobedient—disobedient to authorities who try to muzzle new thoughts and to the authority of long-established opinions which declare change to be nonsense.⁷ “... I do not mean to say that all disobedience is a virtue and all obedience a vice.” ...However, “If a man can only obey and not disobey, he is a slave; if he can only disobey and not obey, he is a rebel (not a revolutionary); he acts out of anger, disappointment, yet not in the name of a conviction or a principle.



However, in order to prevent a confusion of terms an important qualification must be made. Obedience to a person, institution or power ... is submission; it implies the abdication of my autonomy and the acceptance of a foreign will or judgment in place of my own. Obedience to my own reason or conviction ... is not an act of submission but one of affirmation. My conviction and my judgment, if authentically mine, are part of me. If I follow them rather than the judgment of others, I am being myself; ...⁸

“Why is man so prone to obey and why is it so difficult for him to disobey? As long as I am obedient to the power of the State, the Church, or public opinion, I feel safe and protected. In fact, it makes little difference what power it is that I am obedient to. It is always an institution, or men, who use force in one form or another and who fraudulently claim omniscience and omnipotence. My obedience makes me part of the power I worship, and hence I feel strong. I can make no error, since it decides for me; I cannot be alone, because it watches over me; I cannot commit a sin, because it does not let me do so, and even if I do sin, the punishment is only the way of returning to the almighty power.

In order to disobey, one must have the courage to be alone, to err and to sin. But courage is not enough. The capacity for courage depends on a person’s state of development. Only if a person has emerged from mother’s

⁵ This Exit Statement renounces the Church’s practice of excommunicating Truth tellers: Church Educational System (CES) employees like [Grant Palmer](#) [\(video\)](#) [\(video\)](#), BYU professor [Dr David Wright](#), historians like [D. Michael Quinn](#) [\(video\)](#) [\(video\)](#), attorney’s like [Paul Toscano](#) [\(video\)](#), women like [Maxine Hanks](#) [\(video\)](#), [Lynne Whitesides](#) [\(video\)](#), [Lavina Fielding Anderson](#) [\(video\)](#).

Episode I - N: [The Excommunication Weapon](#) Silencing Dissent in the Name of God! [\(video\)](#) (12:49), An Ex-Mormon Informant.

⁶ Elder Dallin H. Oaks 2024 PowerPoint presentation [instructing local leaders](#) to use excommunication. [\(video\)](#)

⁷ Fromm, [Disobedience](#), 17

⁸ Ibid, 18, 19

lap and father's commands, only if he has emerged as a fully developed individual and thus has acquired the capacity to think and feel for himself, only then can he have the courage to say 'no' to power, to disobey.

A person can become free through acts of disobedience by learning to say no to power. But not only is the capacity for disobedience the condition for freedom; freedom is also the condition for disobedience. If I am afraid of freedom, I cannot dare to say 'no', I cannot have the courage to be disobedient. Indeed, freedom and capacity for disobedience are inseparable; hence any social, political, and religious system which proclaims freedom, yet stamps out disobedience, cannot speak the truth"⁹

In dictatorships, silence \triangle from those at the bottom is required. People's beliefs become hostage to instructions from their Authorities. Recommend to individuals that one become the author of one's own authentic life, and that religious claims to power shall not succeed at condemning faith in one's inner divinity. Contrary to LDS Priesthood claims first made by their philandering treasure digging founder, Joseph Smith, there is no one true path toward God for everyone.

The four (4) sections above explain how Mormon Authoritarianism harms the member. A young person does not suspect the source of temptation is coming from Church activity and Temple attendance. Furthermore, Church leaders have succumbed to the [Authoritarian Temptation](#) and promote it in the Temple as the "Law of Obedience."

Disclaimer

These materials are presented for historical, educational, and documentary purposes.

This document is independent and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The term "Mormon" is used in its long-standing historical and descriptive sense to refer to the religious tradition and culture commonly associated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

⁹ Fromm, Disobedience, 21