

religion, and I do ask from day to day, in the name of Jesus Christ, and I direct the Latter-day Saints, to live their religion, and I pray you in Christ's stead to live your religion so as to enjoy the spirit of it. Amen.



MARRIAGE

DISCOURSE BY ELDER ORSON PRATT, DELIVERED IN THE NEW TABERNACLE,
SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 31, 1873

Reported by David W. Evans

I will read a portion of the Word of God found in the 19th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, commencing at the 3rd verse—

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,

And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

That portion of these sayings of Jesus to which I wish more especially to call your attention, is contained in the 6th verse—“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.” There are some few things which transpire in our world in which the hand of God is specially manifest. We might name some

things ordained of God, and which he himself has given to the children of men for their observance. Such are the ordinance of baptism, the Lord's Supper, now being administered to the Saints in this congregation, and the ordinance of confirmation by the laying on of hands for the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost. These ordinances have been ordained of God; he is their Author, and he confers authority upon his servants to officiate therein, and without authority from God to do so, all such administrations are illegal. In addition to these we might name a variety of other ordinances, such as ordinations to the ministry—ordaining a person to officiate in the office and calling of an Apostle, and in the offices and callings of Elders, Priests, Teachers, etc., without which no man can perform the duties of these several offices so as to be acceptable in the sight of God.

But, to be brief, we will come to