

Covenantal Principles

Relative to financial business arrangements,
between Brethren & Sisters among Believers.

- 1st. The entire amount of the real & personal estate of any one separate family interest, of any family of consecrated Brethren & Sisters, holding property in Covenant relation, constitutes one united interest undivided, and indivisible, either between Brethren & Brethren or Sisters & Sisters, or between Brethren & Sisters, constituting the said family, in a separate capacity, and should be held by one board of Trustees, in a harmonious and united capacity.
2. For better security against embezzlement & fraud such Trustees, on their appointment to office, should make a written declaration of Trusts, signed, sealed & delivered in presence of witnesses; whose signatures should be affixed to the written declaration.
3. No person or persons should hold deeds of real estate, nor Bonds, Notes, & Receipts of Personal estate in such person or persons own individual names, who are not appointed and confirmed as authorized Trustees, whether the same be male or female.
4. Hence, Altho official Sisters should be furnished, or, thro the labors of the Sisterhood, or otherwise, as the case may be, furnish themselves, with money sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of their sex for the necessary cloths and domestic wares incident to them and their industrial occupations, according to the ability and means of the family in which they reside, yet, no accounts of debit and credit should be kept between Brethren & Sisters, as forming separate and distinct interests peculiar to each sex.
5. According to the foregoing principles, as neither Brethren nor Sisters can hold property, either real or personal, as private and exclusive to the sex, so neither Brethren nor Sisters can borrow from, nor loan to each other, money returnable as debt.
6. Accounts between Brethren & Sisters may be kept for reference only, showing what each contribute, from time to time to the United Interest of the family; But, in the nature

of the case these would be of very little use, as it is so difficult to get at the facts of service, as comparatively little is produced in many families, by either sex exclusively, & without the aid of the opposite sex, for sale. Again should sisters charge for all their time spent in domestic service? If so, Brethren must also charge for services rendered in managing the farms; caring for the stock, driving the teams, cutting & hauling the fuel, Building & repairing, &c. &c. And, on this principle of divisions how is a Covenant of united & consecrated interests to be sustained? How would taxes be paid? &c. &c. It would not be done.

7. According to Covenantal principles, there can be no borrowing nor loaning of Bonds, Notes, &c. &c. the interest of which is returnable to either Brethren or Sisters in a separate capacity. As there is to be no existence of such a treasure as Brethren's money, or Sisters' money, in a separate interest. But, the money is to be held, the same as the houses and lands in an united capacity only.

8. Official Sisters, who are able, and choose to do so, should have the selection and purchasing of their own wearing apparel (i.e.) wearing apparel for sisters, together with cotton & linen cloths in general for both sexes, and such wares and domestic goods as more immediately come under the care and jurisdiction of Sisters, as Crockery, table furnish in general, also pins, needles, threads, &c. &c.

9. The Order of the gospel requires the interest of Brethren and Sisters among Believers, to be one united and indivisible interest one union, one household, of united Brethren & Sisters, existing in love and harmony, without clashing interests, all subject to one united Gospel Lord.

10. The duty of the Ministry is, to see that none are shackled or oppressed; that the strong hand of selfishness be relaxed; and a spirit of true generosity is encouraged and upheld, between Brethren and Sisters in the same families, and between different families; that justice and equality exist throughout their domains. They, in their official capacity, are responsible for this; and, it is the duty of all, to respect and abide their decision.

Nov. 18th 1870.

Ministry,

Abner L. Chanon

N. Y.

Circular

To Believers Universally

Dear beloved Gospel Friends in every Branch of Zion on Earth.

Admonished by a number of sorrowful and very trying circumstances of pecuniary embarrassments which have occurred at different times in some societies of Believers within the past few years, in consequence of a disregard of, and disobedience to a primary Order, and By law of our Peculiar Institution of an "United and Consecrated Interest" guaranteed to us only by a sacred observance of those principles that demand absolute justice between man & man, and ratified by the signature of all the members of our Community, to a sacred Written Covenant, but not secured by any charter granted by any earthly government.

An obligation seems resting upon us to throw out this warning and admonitory Circular, with a request that it should be annually read in family meeting assembled, at least once, in each year, that every one of the rising generation may learn the primary law of Zion, relative to her financial and pecuniary preservation, and, that all now engaged in business transactions may be frequently reminded of their obligations to preserve, inviolable, the consecrated domains, and honest and devoted earnings of the united Brotherhood and Sisterhood of our institution.

Our solemn, sacred, and sealed Written Covenant, of social compact, imperatively demands that every Covenant Member of our Community, who makes an entire dedication and full consecration to God, and to the sacred purposes and charitable requisitions of our Christian religion, should "be free from all involvements with those without" to owe no man any thing but love, and good will; and to keep this debt as singly paid as possible.

And, sad experience has shown, that, wherever Believers have violated this solemn charge, great loss, temporal, social, and spiritual has been the result, and great and continued tribulation upon the faithful. And, from present appearances, the consequences of extensive violations of this principle, in some places, threatens the annihilation of society.

Therefore, Beloved Gospel Friends may we each one, and all, learn from this the following important lesson. That no agent in the employ of the United Society, in any family thereof, for the transaction of business for the people of God, in any capacity, great or small, is authorized, or has any permission of the United Society of Believers, (Whose property is all consecrated to the service of God,) to virtually mortgage any portion thereof, great or small, to the world, whether it be real or personal estate, by giving a note, or notes for value received, by raising the money on a note, or notes, before due, by indorsement, or, in any manner becoming absolutely indebted to the world, for value received.

The many failures incident to trade, and, at this date, 1864, the country being absorbed in one of the most gigantic wars in the history of nations; the trials in business in the present time, and in the prospective future, combine to prompt a disregard to Gospel Principles, in regard to indebtedness to those outside of our community, and, the solemn injunctions of our sacred Institution, seem, in some respects, easily, to slip from the memory.

We feel, therefore, bound in duty, to call to remembrance that sacred order, and solemn injunction which has been absolutely binding upon Believers ever since their organization, as a society. "That no Believer shall give a note, or notes, in promissory payment for value received, on any occasion, or, in any manner run in debt to the world, by giving any kind of written promissory security for value received after payment becomes due, according to the stipulated terms of sale or trade, when the bargain was first made."

And, we request that this Circular, our Society or family covenant; the Pamphlet, entitled "A Brief Exposition" &c. - Also the record of our Gospel Orders, should be read once in each year, henceforth; that the young may effectually learn, and that all may be frequently reminded of the necessary principles of our Institution, for prosperity and protection throughout all coming time *.

We would suggest that the Book of Gospel Orders should not be read wholly, at anyone given time, but only such section of Orders as relate to one subject, or class of subjects, that they may be better memorized, and more faithfully learned, - For, experience fully proves that where good order is not kept, there is a falling away from the Gospel Work, and a stumbling into paths of sin and condemnation.

"Where there is no Order, there is no God."

In bonds of affectionate Gospel love, we subscribe
A. D. 1864. The Ministry
New Lebanon.

* The Commandment of the Lord to Israel was imperative concerning the Laws and statutes that had been given them, as follows.

"And, thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way; and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes; And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house & upon thy gates."

Deut. Chap. VII. v. 7. to 9. -

Should Believers be less careful to memorize the Orders of the Gospel of Christ?

Universal Circular
to Believers,
Concerning Care about
Indebtedness to the
World

To be read annually
in each family -

1864