

There is a common thread woven throughout nearly every viewpoint on WCLs and their purpose. Although we may differ on many things, the understanding that WCLs are upheld by trust is a shared and universal truth.

The WCL institution exists only because of revelation. The Lord Himself is the author. If anybody else had come up with this idea, it would have been rejected immediately. WCLs by any other author would not exist. It is our trust IN THE LORD that gives WCLs any trust or authority within our community.

We have a system given to us by a perfect God. This system must be run and upheld by imperfect humans. It does not matter that we are women; we make mistakes - sometimes maliciously, sometimes ignorantly.

It is for this reason that direction was given alongside WCLs. The Lord is also the author of those instructions.

If our trust in WCLs only exists because of our trust in the Lord, it would make sense that WCLs who do not follow the Lord's instructions should not have the trust associated with that title. They would not be the Lord's WCL. If they are not the Lord's WCL, they have no authority to remove a priesthood certificate.

This is why the way a WCL is held is so important. This is why the process matters.

The Lord's Process

Preserving the Restoration, pg. 510-511

1. At least two witnesses should speak against the accused
2. He should be allowed to speak on his behalf
3. And call upon such witnesses as he chooses
4. Only women are allowed to vote
5. Unanimous vote of the women present
6. 12 votes required to revoke
7. Women can abstain from voting. All other instructions still apply

T&C 157:57 & 175:32

8. Convened in home fellowship or at a general conference
9. Include those (at least 2) acquainted with his daily walk
10. No injustice should result - on behalf of the man
11. Reinstatement requires same council of 12 women
12. Reinstatement requires 7 votes
13. Reinstatement can happen at any time

Revelation given August 8, 2022

14. No reinstatement if a man returns to adultery

15. No injustice should result - on behalf of the community

Revelation given June 20, 2024

16. No predetermined outcomes
17. Consider the Constitutional protections and rights of all - including the accused - as we decide how to conduct councils
18. Call women's conferences at a convenient time and location
19. Stephanie Snuffer conducts deliberations
20. Let any who want to speak present their concerns
21. Reason together and learn to come to agreement
22. Voice of the Conference decides all matters raised
23. 51% vote decides the matter
24. Voice of the WCF to resolve disputes
25. Call a WCF as often as need arises

Preserving the Restoration, pg. 510-511

1-7 Relevant excerpts state:

“Sustaining is by women, and removing authority to act within a community or fellowship is likewise to be done by the vote of women. If a man’s worthiness to function is called into question, then a conference can be convened to deal with the question. In removing authority, **1.** at least two witnesses should speak against the accused, and **2.** he should be allowed to speak on his behalf and **3.** call upon such witnesses as he chooses. Men can be witnesses, but **4.** only women are allowed to vote. Removal should be by **5.** unanimous vote* of the women present, with at least **6.** 12 votes against a man to end his authority to act in the fellowship community. As for his family, he is free to do as he chooses, but he cannot act in the community until restored by the vote of a conference of that community. **7.** [**If a woman is present and cannot judge the matter she may abstain, and the vote of the remaining women, if unanimous and there are 12 votes, will be sufficient.*” Footnote 1391]

T&C 157:57

5-10 T&C 157:57

“...I have told you that to remove authority to use priesthood outside a man’s family requires a **5.** unanimous decision by **6.** twelve women. A council of twelve women must be convened, either in the man’s **8.** home fellowship among those who are acquainted with his **9.** daily walk, or in private at a **8.** general conference, also including among the twelve women from the conference those who are acquainted with his **9.** daily walk, **10.** so that no injustice results.” (Also recorded in T&C 175:32)

11-13 T&C 157:57

“...Reinstatement of the man’s authority must be considered by the **11.** same council of twelve women when the man petitions for the decision to be rescinded, and

requires **12.** seven of the twelve to agree upon his reinstatement, **13.** which can occur at any time. During the period of suspension, nothing affects the man's duties and responsibility in his own family." (Also recorded in T&C 175:32)

August 8, 2022 Revelation

14-15 Answer on Forgiveness; relevant excerpts state: "In response to prayers over the last several months I received the following Answer to an Inquiry About Forgiveness:

[First, the Lord repeats what is recorded in the above scripture, T&C 157:57, then adds,]

*"... I say to you, if a man has been suspended for adultery, and then been reinstated, and return again to adultery, **14.** he shall not be reinstated again, for to do so places my community at peril. These words were to guard **15.** so that no injustice results. I ask, is there injustice if my people cannot become one because of disobedience? Even a single disobedient soul who breaks the hearts of others by his sinful disobedience can destroy the peace of all my people. I say again, Each of you must equally walk truly in my path, not only to profess, but to do as you profess. **15.** You shall not show mercy to the disobedient when to do so results in injustice to the people who seek to become one. You shall not forgive the adulterer and welcome him into the community when he has been forgiven and returns again to his sin. You shall not place the community at peril by embracing the willful and unrepentant among you, to leave your little ones at peril of injury, harm, and destruction."*

(Posted on Denver Snuffer's blog, Aug 8, 2022)

June 20, 2024 Revelation

16-25 Relevant excerpts state:

"On June 20, 2024, the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

*... There have been disputes among the women about the conduct of women's councils and disputes about how they are to proceed. I have given direction and it is not wise for the women to be commanded in every particular; but it is also not wise for the direction I have given to be used to achieve a **16.** predetermined outcome. The outcome should be based on, and the result of, what is learned in the council.*

17. *All my revelations are intended to guide you, and therefore remember that I have told you that I suffered the Constitution of the United States to be established to maintain the rights and protection of all based upon just and holy principles; and that I established the Constitution by the hands of wise men whom I raised up for this very purpose. The abuses and mistreatment of mankind by unjust governments needed to end, and the principles adopted in the Bill of Rights were intended to secure the protection of those accused of transgressing the laws of the land. The women should consider those protections as they decide how to conduct councils involving those accused of transgressing the laws of God.*

*Let the women call a conference at a **18.** suitable time and place convenient to allow interested women to attend. Have your wife, **19.** Stephanie Snuffer conduct the conference deliberations and **20.** let any who want to speak present their concerns. **21.** Reason together and draw upon the experiences from those past women's councils. Let the women learn to come to agreement and the **22.** voice of that conference decides all matters raised. And I remind you that the majority of those who vote decide the voice of the conference of women. **23.** If 100 vote, the vote of 51 decides the matter. And, if another dispute later arises from other women's councils, and there is a need, call another conference of the women and **24.** resolve the dispute by the voice of the women's conference, **25.** as often as need arises...*

Hear me now: Let every person take care in how they use my name, as if I had part in their every dispute, for many things provoking arguments among the people are born from pride, stubbornness, aspiring for control, and reckless indifference toward me and one another. I bear with the people still, and patiently await the return of natural fruit in my vineyard. Do not be misled by my patience, for the time is quickly approaching for the harvest of my vineyard. Amen."

(Posted on Denver Snuffer's blog, July 19, 2024)

We don't need to add rules

Revelation gives the Lord's standards for how WCLs and WCFs should operate. The June 20th revelation is His solution for resolving disputes. This is also the process He has instructed us to use as we "decide how to conduct councils"...

The Lord's instructions are our Due Process. The June 20th revelation added the means to understand and uphold them. We do not need to add to them and we should not take away from them, we simply need to understand and apply them.

"I have given what I have given to be followed, neither to be added to nor taken from, but to be your counsel and guide. Do as you are bidden and you will have peace in this troubled world, which will be your first reward." Aug 8, 2022

So, this is the women's puzzle:

The Lord's revelations have commandments to uphold and boundaries we must operate within. This includes considering the rights of the accused and ensuring no injustice results.

How do we, together as a women's community, uphold all He has asked of us without adding our own damning rules?

The Spirit of the Law vs the Letter of the Law

Those who seek to apply only the letter of the law are the very people that pages upon pages of rules are made for. They do not understand the principles behind the laws given and therefore set themselves up to be instructed and corrected at every turn.

In between the instructions about WCLs and WCFs, we find the means to understand the spirit the Lord intends. The statement about daily walk and home fellowship is an excellent example of this:

“A council of twelve women must be convened, either 8. in the man’s home fellowship among those who are acquainted with his 9. daily walk, or in private at a 8. general conference, also including among the twelve women from the conference those who are acquainted with his 9. daily walk, 10. so that no injustice results.”

This whole passage is concluded by the instruction “so that no injustice results.” Through this last phrase we can understand the spirit behind every instruction contained in that sentence. We understand the Lord is concerned about injustice and we understand these rules are constraints placed upon the WCL to ensure no injustice results.

By the letter of the law, a scorned ex-wife could qualify as a daily walk member. The spirit of the law, however, would instead disqualify her. An angry and vengeful person is not fit to “ensure no injustice results” no matter how much time she’s spent with the accused.

WCLs currently have the ability to abuse the Lord’s instructions either by disregarding them completely or by simply applying the letter of the law only. They have the ability to oppress the accused by calling and holding unjust WCLs.

Does the Lord care about this kind of injustice? And does He care if it is inflicted upon the accused? His June 20th revelation illustrates the great lengths to which He has gone to establish the US Constitution. He tells us He has done so in order to protect the rights of everyone - even those accused of transgressing the laws of the land. He asks us to “remember that I have told you that I suffered the Constitution of the United States to be established to maintain the rights and protection of all based upon just and holy principles.”

If we are looking to principles and not simply “rules” are we meant to uphold unjust WCLs? How much more instruction do we need to understand that the women are the means to hold each other accountable just as they hold the men accountable?

We still do not need to add rules

I have heard from those who do not want to overturn a council that an appeals process would be preferable. This would involve overriding some of the Lord’s instructions regarding reinstatement. It would also involve adding rules to determine when a WCL ruling is up for an appeal and how the men might go about applying for that and how that appeals process should operate. Do we want more rules written by our own hands?

The solution is simple and requires no new laws.

An unjust WCL can not be the Lord's. If it is not the Lord's it does not have the authority to remove a priesthood certificate. If nothing is removed then there is nothing to "reinstate".

This is how we hold WCLs accountable. It is the most mild reprimand possible. It can be done with kindness and understanding. There are no punishments and no new rules are needed. We simply acknowledge that the WCL in question did not meet the Lord's standards and therefore do not have the authority to remove a priesthood certificate in the first place.

Would we ask a man to petition for reinstatement of his certificate that had been removed by a WCL of 12 men? If we would not, we already agree that it is possible to simply not acknowledge a WCL that does not follow the Lord's instructions.

The man in question is not acquitted. He can be called to a fair WCL upheld by the Lord's process.

Setting Precedent

Every woman gets her own vote in a council or a conference. That vote is cast by the dictates of her own conscience and how she sees the Lord's instructions have been applied to the specific WCL in question.

Unless we begin to vote upon and add rules that apply to future rulings, there is no precedent set for the group when we resolve individual WCL disputes.

For this reason we need to be very cautious about the votes we bring forth.

For example:

If we were to vote that we can not overturn any WCL outcome and it passed, no council in the future could ever be overturned. We would be setting a precedent, a new rule that did not come through the Lord, that controls every single WCF outcome from this point forward. Common sense shows that we should not weigh on any matter that dictates an outcome for all future WCL disputes.

If you vote that THIS COUNCIL alone should be overturned, every council brought before a WCF in the future still has the same chance to either be upheld or not. There is no precedent set either way for the body of women. Common sense says that each disputed council must be weighed on its own merits.

Each woman has the agency to determine where her own vote goes. Because we know we will be held accountable for our judgements in this life, each woman must decide for herself - what

are her standards for upholding a WCL ruling? What margin of error is acceptable before she will refuse to uphold an unjust council?

Again, if we are voting only for this conference and this council, nothing about this vote will be writing in a rule of law. Precedent will only be set for and by each individual woman and the reasoning and spirit that rests in her own heart.

Reasoning about Home Fellowship and Daily Walk

Home Fellowship

A man of good conscience and sound mind will always be the foremost authority on what constitutes his own home fellowship. He is the expert witness of his own life and no other person can claim higher understanding on this account than the man himself.

Women's councils have not been granted the authority to override a man's declaration of his own home fellowship. If a home fellowship selection has any power to change or manipulate WCL outcomes, it reasons that power could be just as wrongfully wielded by a WCL as by the accused. If a man does not have the right to select his own home fellowship for fear of exploitation, surely a WCL - who pose the same risk, yet lack the expertise of living the man's own life - have even less right to do so.

If an agreement can not be found, at no point has the Lord given WCL's the authority to select a man's home fellowship for him. The provision "*or ... at a general conference*" has always been available as a means to a fair hearing and is the exclusive alternative should the man's home fellowship be in question.

Daily Walk

Because they organize themselves, WCL's are granted the power to exclude or approve any of their members. It is by the Lord's instruction that they must include 2 or more women acquainted with a man's daily walk. If this is "*so that no injustice results*" - and the WCL already holds the powers of calling and organizing as well as passing judgement - it reasons that this stipulation was put in place *specifically* to serve the purposes of ensuring justice on the man's behalf.

"Daily walk" can be shallowly interpreted to include most surface level interactions as long as they're regular. Countless women could be appointed to this role by a WCL to fulfill the letter of the law while failing to act on behalf of fairness and justice to the man. The spirit of the Lord's purpose for daily walk "*so that no injustice results*", however, would not be served under those conditions. That statement, therefore, acts as the qualifier and even the job description for daily walk members.

Neither reason, nor revelation grants WCL's the exclusive determination of a man's daily walk advocates. A man is the primary expert on his own daily walk AND the foremost advocate for

justice on his own behalf. Loose interpretation of the Lord's words could easily result in an abuse of power by the WCL - especially if they had set out to secure a specific outcome.

Organizers, therefore, can not strip accused men of the right to be heard on such a personal and significant matter while also fulfilling the Lord's requirement that "*no injustice results*". Justice and the presumption of innocence dictate that every effort should be made to appoint daily walk council members that the man ALSO feels will ensure fair proceedings on his behalf.

In the case of a stalemate in this matter, the Lord has not provided an alternative as He did for home fellowship / general conference. Because the WCL has the final say in their member appointments, they would ultimately need to make selections in order to move forward with the hearing.

In this scenario, WCL's should explain their decisions to the accused and, if necessary, defend themselves in a women's conference (WCF). They should prove a good faith attempt was made to find women both parties could agree upon. This should include the providing of details of why they rejected each of the man's selections, showing their efforts toward negotiations with him, and illustrating their reasoning for how their final appointments could fulfill both terms ("*daily walk... so that no injustice results.*").