EXALTATION

To Latter-day Saints, exaltation is a state that a person can attain in becoming like God—salvation in the ultimate sense (D&C 132:17). Latter-day Saints believe that all mankind (except the sons of perdition) will receive varying degrees of glory in the afterlife. Exaltation is the greatest of all the gifts and attainments possible. It is available only in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom and is reserved for members of the Church of the Firstborn. This exalted status, called eternal life, is available to be received by a man and wife. It means not only living in God’s presence, but receiving power to do as God does, including the power to bear children after the resurrection (TPJS, pp. 300–301; D&C 132:19). Blessings and privileges of exaltation require unwavering faith, repentance, and complete obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Savior stated the following conditions: “Strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me” (D&C 132:22).

All Church ordinances lead to exaltation, and the essential crowning ordinances are the endowment and the eternal marriage covenant of the temple (D&C 131:1–4, 132).

MARGARET McCONKIE POPE

EXCOMMUNICATION

See: Disciplinary Procedures

EXHIBITIONS AND WORLD’S FAIRS

From its beginnings, the Church has characteristically presented its message through personal contact or in small groups: faith and testimony are interpersonal. The Church has placed extensive emphasis on the mass media, and in participating in exhibits such as world’s fairs. In addition, in recent years these activities have provided the Church an opportunity to present the message of the gospel amid milestone presentations of the arts, the sciences, and industry. The witness of the living and revealed Jesus Christ has been implicit in all Church exhibits, with two related themes given prominence: life’s greatest questions—Where did I come from? Why am I here? What follows death?—and family values.

The first Church participation in a world’s fair on a truly international scale was at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, where the Mormon Tabernacle Choir won high honors in the choral competition. The Church later sponsored booths in several expositions and fairs, including the International Hygiene Exposition at Dresden, Germany, in 1930, and the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago in 1933–1934. Exhibits were also mounted at international expositions held in San Diego in 1935–1936 and San Francisco in 1939–1940.

The Church’s participation in the New York World’s Fair in 1964 was a major effort. Its pavilion was a full-size replica of the three east towers of the Salt Lake Temple. Original paintings, the presentation of the film Man’s Search for Happiness, and a replica of the Thorvaldsen Christus statue were featured. A large staff of trained volunteer guides conducted tours and question-and-answer