Deacons & Priests after Passing the Sacrament — Right Hand


At the conclusion of the administration of the sacrament, it is not uncommon for the priests and even the deacons to leave their places and scatter all over the chapel. Possibly the bench on which the priests sit is not comfortable. If so, perhaps space could be reserved on the front row to which they could quietly move at the conclusion of the sacrament service.


Worthiness, Dress, and Conduct of Aaronic Priesthood Bearers As They Administer and Pass the Sacrament. . . .

4) Unless requested to sit with his family, each boy should remain where assigned until the close of the meeting.

The Messenger, September 1963, No. 87.

Members of the Aaronic Priesthood who participate in any way in administering or passing the sacrament should remain in the meeting It has been customary for those administering the sacrament to take seats less prominent than those in which they sat while officiating; and in some instances, even those passing the sacrament have taken seats in other locations in the chapel. This has caused a considerable amount of confusion and irreverence.

While there is no objection to the priests taking seats in the audience, it may be less disturbing if they remained seated behind the sacrament table throughout the meeting. In the event circumstances make it more desirable for the priests to be seated elsewhere in order to view the speaker, we suggest the prior arrangements be made for them to sit near the front of the chapel. It is a serious reflection upon the Aaronic Priesthood to have its members leave the meeting. This practice is both discourteous and irreverent.

The Messenger, November-December 1958, No. 34.

Deacons Not To Leave Seats After Sacrament. Bearers of the Aaronic Priesthood who administer or pass the sacrament should not leave their assigned seats when they have finished the sacrament service. There is an unnecessary disturbance when, following the administration of the sacrament, young men immediately go to other areas of the meetinghouse to find seats.

Letter from the Presiding Bishopric (Joseph L. Wirthlin, Thorpe B. Isaacson, Carl W. Buehner) to Bishops and Stake Presidents, April 28, 1955.

In an increasing number of wards, some Aaronic Priesthood members are forming the habit of walking out of the meeting as soon as they have finished passing the sacrament.

It appears to us that this is a rather bold, though perhaps thoughtless exhibition of disrespect for the house of the Lord and a most unworthy example on the part of those participating in this sacred ordinance.

We feel that those administering and passing the sacrament should remain in their appointed seats rather than getting up and walking to another part of the chapel when the passing of the sacrament is ended. At least, where this movement is permitted, those participating should be cautioned to proceed quietly in moving from one place to another.

All matters pertaining to the administration and passing of the sacrament, including the behavior of those officiating, should be given careful and constant attention by the bishopric.

If this infraction is practiced in your ward, we urge you to correct it without delay. Our sacrament service should always be conducted and administered in keeping with the dignity of its sacred purpose.

RIGHT HAND

The Messenger, August 1961, No. 62.

Use of Right Hand in Partaking of Sacrament. The right hand should be used when partaking of the sacrament. The use of the right hand is a symbol of righteousness; and is not only a well-established custom in the performing of ordinances in the Church, but also has received divine sanction. Encouragement should be given where necessary to continue this practice.

For additional information on the subject of using the right hand, read Answers to Gospel Questions, Volume I, page 151, by Joseph Fielding Smith.

WASHING HANDS

The Messenger, December 1963.

“Whenever possible, priests should be appointed to administer the sacrament. Facilities should be provided in the meetinghouse for the brethren who administer the sacrament to wash their hands before they begin to break the bread. Whatever bread remains may properly be given to someone who will use it for food. As a mark of respect the sacrament should be given first the the presiding authority who is sitting on the stand.…