**Unit 5 Part 1: Happiness in Family Life: Transcript:**

So far in our Family Foundations course we have been learning the following truths through the Proclamation of the First Presidency and Twelve Apostles… In Unit 1 we learned:

* Unit 1: Eternal Truths about God, His children, and the Plan of Happiness featuring Marriage and Family.
* Unit 2: Gender – male and female – is essential to understanding our eternal identity, purpose, and potential.
* Unit 3: God’s plan offers coming to earth to enter into covenant ordinances with Father so that a man and a woman and their family will be united eternally.
* Unit 4: Within this eternal gospel covenant a husband and wife employ the sacred powers of procreation to strengthen their love for each other and to create bodies for their children.

Listen to the practical view of President Faust about how to achieve more than simple physical unity in marriage on our way to becoming truly happy in our marriages. As you listen to this Apostle consider how the next paragraph of the Proclamation guides couples to attain the fulfilling and thriving partnerships available in the Lord’s plan of happiness.

**One Heart & Mind:**

“It is far more difficult to be of one heart and mind than to be physically one. This unity of heart and mind is manifest in sincere expressions of “I appreciate you” and “I am proud of you.” Such domestic harmony results from forgiving and forgetting essential elements of a maturing marriage relationship. Someone has said that we “should keep [our] eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterward.” True charity ought to begin in marriage, for it is a relationship that must be rebuilt every day. (President James E. Faust, “Fathers, Mothers, Marriage,” *Ensign*, August 2004)

**Responsibilities of Parents:**

“Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. “Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve on another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives-mothers and fathers-will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.”(President Gordon B. Hinckley, The Family: A Proclamation to the World, *Ensign*, November 1995)

**Proclamation: Point #1:**

Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children.

**Happy at Home:**

“The ultimate end of all activity in the Church is that a man and his wife and their children might be happy at home, protected by the principles and laws of the gospel, sealed safely in the covenants of the everlasting priesthood. Every law and principle and power, every belief, every ordinance and ordination, every covenant, every sermon and every sacrament, every counsel and correction, the sealings, the calls, the releases, the service-all these have as their ultimate purpose the perfection of the individual and the family…” (President Boyd K. Packer, “The Power of the Priesthood,” *Ensign*, May 2010)

**Family is Patriarchal:**

As married couples build happy partnerships and homes, it will be helpful to learn some important differences between how the Church functions versus how the gospel principles should be applied at home.

“A most important difference in the functioning of priesthood authority in the family and in the Church results from the fact that the government of the family is patriarchal, whereas the government of the Church is hierarchical. The concept of partnership functions differently in the family than in the Church. The family proclamation gives this beautiful explanation of the relationship between a husband and a wife: While they have separate responsibilities, “in these sacred responsibilities,, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners.” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995) (Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “Priesthood Authority in the Family and the Church,” *Ensign*, Nov 2005)

**Partnership:**

“There is a difference in the way the priesthood functions in the home as compared to the way it functions in the Church. In the Church our service is by call. In the home our service is by choice. A calling in the Church generally is temporary for there comes a release. Our place in the home and family, which is based on choice, is forever and beyond. In the Church there is a distinct line of authority. We serve where called by those who preside over us. In the home it is a partnership with husband and wife equally yoked together, sharing in decisions, always working together. While the husband, the father, has responsibility to provide worthy and inspired leadership, his wife is neither behind him nor ahead of him but at his side.” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, “The Relief Society,” *Ensign*, May 1998)

**Priesthood in the Church & Home:**

To review, the priesthood operates in the church though a hierarchal system where key-holders preside over and direct counseling within Church councils with distinct lines of authority – Church service is by call and is generally only temporary. In contrast, the Priesthood operates in a gospel home within a patriarchal system of full partnership and shared-authority between spouses, who provide service and love to every family member by choice and in preparation for enjoying their family relationships into eternity.

**Full Partnership:**

“A man who holds the priesthood accepts his wife as a partner in the leadership of the home and family with full knowledge of and full participation in all decisions relating thereto. Of necessity there must be in the Church and in the home a presiding officer. By divine appointment the responsibility to preside in the home rests with upon the priesthood holder. The Lord intended that the wife be a helpmeet for man (meet means equal)-that is, a companion and necessary in full partnership.” (President Howard W. Hunter, “Being a Righteous Husband and Father,” November 1994, *Ensign*)

**Coequals:**

“Remember, brethren, that in your role as leader in the family, your wife is your companion. As President Gordon B. Hinckley has taught: “In this Church the man neither walks ahead of his wife nor behind his wife but at her side. They are coequals.”

“Since the beginning, God has instructed mankind that marriage should unite husband and wife together in unity. Therefore, there is not a president or a vice president in a family. The couple works together eternally for the good of the family. They are united together in word, in deed, and in action as they lead, guide, and direct their family unit. They are on equal footing.” (Elder L. Tom Perry, “Fatherhood, an Eternal Calling, May 2004, *Ensign*)

**How to Succeed:**

In the following, note how President Packer’s counsel to Brother Broderick fits perfectly with these teachings about full and active partnership in the home between the husband and the wife. What specific “how-to” advice does Elder Packer offer for married couples in their home administrations? What specific warning does Elder Packer give about what not to do?

“Immediately after setting me apart as a stake president, Elder Boyd K. Packer sat me down to give me a few points of advice on how to succeed in my new calling. I was fully prepared to be receptive to his counsel, but I couldn’t help being taken aback by his first admonition. “Now, President, I don’t want you treating your wife like you do the stake.” I was mildly offended. I said, “I wasn’t planning on treating either the stake or my wife badly.”

“I know,” he continued. “but you need to treat them, well, differently, In the stake when a decision is to be made, you will seek the opinion of your counselors and other concerned individuals. Then you will prayerfully reach a decision on the matter, and they will all rally round and support you because you are the president and you have the mantle of authority. In your family when there is a decision to be made that affects everyone, you and your wife together will seek whatever counsel you might need, and together you will prayerfully come to a unified decision if you ever pull priesthood rank on her you will have failed in your leadership.” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, quoted in Carlfred Broderick, One Flesh, One Heart: *Putting Celestial Love into Your Temple Marriage,* Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1986, 31-32)

1. What specific “how-to” advice does Elder Packer offer for married couples in their home administrations?
2. What specific warning does Elder Packer give about what not to do?

**Encourage and Assist:**

“To the many of you who are here who dream of finding the right eternal partner, may I say that in my judgment the real essence of happiness in marriage lies not so much in romance as in an anxious concern for the comfort and well-being of one’s companion. Thinking of self alone and of the gratification of personal desires will build neither trust, love, nor happiness. Only when there is unselfishness will love, with its concomitant qualities, flourish and blossom. Marriage, in its truest sense, is a partnership of equals, with neither exercising dominion over the other but, rather, with each encouraging and assisting the other in whatever responsibilities and aspirations he or she might have.” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, August 1992, *Ensign*, p. 6; also “This I believe,” BYU Devotional, March 1, 1992)

**Spouse’s Equal Obligation:**

Consider Pres. Packer’s practical advice about how both men and women will need to accommodate each other to achieve Pres. Hinckley’s vision for a happy home and fulfilling marriage and family: He taught that: Text: (Packer) “It was not meant that the woman alone accommodate herself to the priesthood duties of her husband or her sons. She is of course to sustain and support and encourage them. Holders of the priesthood, in turn, must accommodate themselves to the needs and responsibilities of the wife and mother. Her physical and emotional and intellectual and cultural well-being and her spiritual development must stand first among his priesthood duties. There is no task, however menial, connected with the care of babies, the nurturing of children, or with the maintenance of the home that is not his equal obligation. The tasks which come with parenthood, which many consider to be below other tasks, are simply above them. (President Packer, “A Tribute to Women,” Ensign, July 1989)

**Full Partnership:**

“President Spencer W. Kimball has said: ‘When we speak of marriage as a partnership, let us speak of marriage as a full partnership, let us speak of marriage as a full partnership. We do not want our LDS women to be silent partners or limited partners in that eternal assignment! Please be a contributing and full partner.’ (The teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 315)

“President Kimball also declared, ‘We have heard of men who have said to their wives, “I hold the priesthood and you’ve got to do what I say.” He decisively rejected that abuse of priesthood authority in a marriage, declaring that such a man ‘should not be honored in his priesthood.’ (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, 316).

“There are cultures or traditions in some parts of the world that allow men to oppress women, but those abuses must not be carried into the families of the Church of Jesus Christ. Remember how Jesus taught: “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, … but I say unto you …” (Matt. 5:27-28). For example, the Savior contradicted the prevailing culture in His considerate treatment of women. Our guide must be the gospel culture He taught. “If men desire the Lord’s blessings in their family leadership, they must exercise their priesthood authority according to the Lord’s principles for its use: ‘NO power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by longsuffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; By kindness, and pure knowledge’ (D&C 121:41-42). When priesthood authority is exercised in that way in the patriarchal family, we achieve the ‘full partnership’ President Kimball taught.” (Elder Dallin H Oaks, “Priesthood Authority in the Family and the Church,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 24)

**A Wise Man:**

Enjoy this recreation of these great gospel principles in the life of Joseph and Emma Smith while they lived in Nauvoo… (Video of “Joseph Smith: The Prophet of the Restoration,” is found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xVw6PsSinl53:00> (start 47:50, end 49:20)