

# Modern-day Marriage and Family

The number of divorces in America has increased nearly 200% in the last 30 years

The number of unmarried couples living together in America has increased 400% in the last 30 years

In 1995, 32% of all births were out of wedlock births. Up from 5.3% in 1960

$\frac{1}{4}$  of all adolescents will contract a STD before they graduate

18% of the 40-44 year old in American where childless compared to 10% in 1980

# Modern-day Marriage and Family II

50 million abortions performed worldwide each year

1 in 3 pregnancies ended in abortion in the United states.

½ of all American women will have an abortion by the age of 45

Almost 1 million cases of child abuse or neglect were documented in America in 1996

70% of all juveniles in state reform institutions come from fatherless homes

74% percent of all married mothers with children under eighteen worked in 1996. 38% full time. More than half of those with children under 6 were either working or looking for work

# Modern-day Marriage and Family III

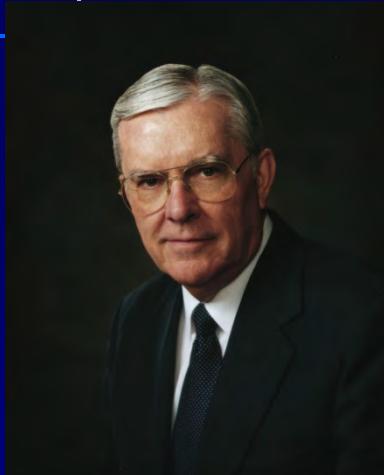
Children from single parent families are:

6 times more likely to be poor

2 to 3 times more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems

More likely to drop out of high school, get pregnant, use drugs and get in trouble with the law and much more likely to be physically and sexually abused

# It is no small thing



President M. Russell Ballard taught: “It is no small thing, my brothers and sisters, to have a prophet of God in our midst. Great and wonderful are the blessings that come into our lives as we listen to the word of the Lord as it is given to us through him. At the same time, knowing that [the President of the Church] is God’s prophet also endows us with a sense of security. When we hear the counsel of the Lord expressed through the words of the President of the Church, our response should be positive and prompt. History has shown that there is safety, peace, prosperity, and happiness in responding to prophetic counsel as did Nephi of old: ‘I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded’ (1 Ne. 3:7) . . .”

# REMEMBER HAUNS MILL

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# One Key is Repetition

In our own time, we have been warned with counsel on where to find safety from sin and from sorrow. One of the keys to recognizing those warnings is that they are repeated. For instance, more than once in these general conferences, you have heard our prophet say that he would quote a preceding prophet and would therefore be a second witness and sometimes even a third.

Elder Eyring

# A Matter of Faith

When a prophet speaks, those with little faith may think that they hear only a wise man giving good advice. Then if his counsel seems comfortable and reasonable, squaring with what they want to do, they take it. If it does not, they consider it either faulty advice or they see their circumstances as justifying their being an exception to the counsel.

Elder Eyring

# Two Fallacies

In rejecting His counsel, we choose the influence of another power, whose purpose is to make us miserable and whose motive is hatred. We have moral agency as a gift of God. Rather than the right to choose to be free of influence, it is the inalienable right to submit ourselves to whichever of those powers we choose.

Another fallacy is to believe that the choice to accept or not accept the counsel of prophets is no more than deciding whether to accept good advice and gain its benefits or to stay where we are. But the choice not to take prophetic counsel changes the very ground upon which we stand. It becomes more dangerous. The failure to take prophetic counsel lessens our power to take inspired counsel in the future.

Elder Eyring

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# Only 5 Proclamations issued in the history of the church

- Proclamation of the First Presidency on January 15, 1841, at Nauvoo, Illinois; Our progress despite our troubles
- Proclamation of the Twelve Apostles on April 6, 1845, in New York City, and on October 22, 1845, in Liverpool, England; (The church is restored)
- Proclamation of the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles on October 21, 1865, in Salt Lake City, Utah; and (Orson Pratt's statements on the Holy Ghost)
- Proclamation from the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, April 6, 1980, issued from Fayette, New York. (150 Anniversary report)
- The Family, A Proclamation to the World, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1995
- The Living Christ – January 1<sup>st</sup> 2000

# How To Read It

We may have to pray with faith to know what we are to do and we must pray with a determination to obey, but we can know what to do and be sure that the way has been prepared for us by the Lord. As we read of what the proclamation tells us about the family, we can expect, in fact we must expect, impressions to come to our minds as to what we are to do, and we can be confident it is possible...I pray that you will ask, “Father, how can I prepare?” Tell him how much you want what it is that He wants so much to give you. You will receive impressions, and if you act on them, I promise you the help of the powers of heaven.

Henry B. Eyring, “The Family” A CES Fireside

# THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

We the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles, of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

All human beings-male and female-are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

# THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD – Cont.

In the premortal realm, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshiped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize his or her divine destiny as an heir of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

We declare the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

# **THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD – Cont.**

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” (Psalms 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve one another, to observe the commandments of God and to 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.

# THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD – Cont.

The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

# Faith

"Marriage is sustained by faith and knowledge of its divine establishment, and is sustained daily by the energy of love. ...

"A strong, shared conviction that there is something eternally precious about a marriage relationship builds faith to resist evil. Marriage should be beautiful and fulfilling, with joy beyond our fondest dreams, for 'neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord'

David B. Haight

# Prayer

"Prayer in the home and prayer with each other will strengthen your union. Gradually thoughts, aspirations, and ideas will merge into a oneness until you are seeking the same purposes and goals.

"Rely on the Lord, the teachings of the prophets, and the scriptures for guidance and help, particularly when there may be disagreements and problems“

Ezra Taft Benson

# Prayer II

"I know of no other practice that will have so salutary an effect upon your lives as will the practice of kneeling together in prayer. The very words, Our Father in Heaven, have a tremendous effect. You cannot speak them with sincerity and with recognition without having some feeling of accountability to God. The little storms that seem to afflict every marriage become of small consequence while kneeling before the Lord and addressing him as a suppliant son and daughter.

"Your daily conversations with him will bring peace into your hearts and a joy into your lives that can come from no other source. Your companionship will sweeten through the years. Your love will strengthen. Your appreciation one for another will grow.

President Hinckley

# Prayer III

"Many Church leaders as well as professional counselors have indicated that they have never seen a marriage in serious difficulty in which the couple was still praying together daily. When you invite the Lord to be a partner in your union, there is a softening of feelings, a moderation of tension that occurs through the power of the Spirit.

Joe. J. Christensen

# Repentance

"There is a remedy for all of this. It is not found in divorce. It is found in the gospel of the Son of God. He it was who said, 'What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder' (Matthew 19:6). The remedy for most marriage stress is not in divorce. It is in repentance. It is not in separation. It is in simple integrity that leads a man to square up his shoulders and meet his obligations. It is found in the Golden Rule"

President Hinckley

# Repentance II

"In the battle of life, the adversary takes enormous numbers of prisoners, and many who know of no way to escape and are pressed into his service. Every soul confined to a concentration camp of sin and guilt has a key to the gate. The adversary cannot hold them if they know how to use it. The key is labeled Repentance. The twin principles of repentance and forgiveness exceed in strength the awesome power of the adversary.

Boyd K. Packer

# Forgiveness

"If we will sue for peace, taking the initiative in settling differences—if we can forgive and forget with all our hearts—if we can cleanse our own souls of sin, accusations, bitterness, and guilt before we cast a stone at others—if we forgive all real or fancied offenses before we ask forgiveness for our own sins—if we pay our own debts, large or small, before we press our debtors—if we manage to clear our own eyes of the blinding beams before we magnify the motes in the eyes of others—what a glorious world this would be! Divorce would be reduced to a minimum; courts would be freed from disgusting routines; family life would be heavenly“

President Kimball

# Forgiveness II

"Every couple, whether in the first or the twenty-first year of marriage, should discover the value of pillow-talk time at the end of the day—the perfect time to take inventory, to talk about tomorrow. And best of all, it's a time when love and appreciation for one another can be reconfirmed. The end of another day is also the perfect setting to say, 'Sweetheart, I am sorry about what happened today. Please forgive me'"

Robert L. Simpson

# Forgiveness III

What is our response when we are offended, misunderstood, unfairly or unkindly treated, or sinned against, made an offender for a word, falsely accused, passed over, hurt by those we love, our offerings rejected? Do we resent, become bitter, hold a grudge? Or do we resolve the problem if we can, forgive, and rid ourselves of the burden?

The nature of our response to such situations may well determine the nature and quality of our lives, here and eternally. A courageous friend, her faith refined by many afflictions, said to me only hours ago, "Humiliation must come before exaltation."

Marion D. Hanks

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# Forgiveness IV

When Christ bade us turn the other cheek, walk the second mile, give our cloak to him who takes our coat, was it to be chiefly out of consideration for the bully, the brute, the thief? Or was it to relieve the one aggrieved of the destructive burden that resentment and anger lay upon us? ...

Marion D. Hanks

# Mutual Respect

"There is no great or majestic music which constantly produces the harmony of a great love. The most perfect music is a welding of two voices into one spiritual solo. Marriage is the way provided by God for the fulfillment of the greatest of human needs, based upon mutual respect, maturity, selflessness, decency, commitment, and honesty. Happiness in marriage and parenthood can exceed a thousand times any other happiness"

President Faust

# Mutual Respect II

"Companionship in marriage is prone to become commonplace and even dull. I know of no more certain way to keep it on a lofty and inspiring plane than **for a man occasionally to reflect upon the fact that the helpmeet who stands at his side is a daughter of God**, engaged with Him in the great creative process of bringing to pass His eternal purposes. I know of no more effective way for **a woman to keep ever radiant the love for her husband than for her to look for and emphasize the godly qualities that are a part of every son of our Father** and that can be evoked when there is respect and admiration and encouragement. The very processes of such actions will cultivate a constantly rewarding appreciation for one another“

President Hinckley

# Mutual Respect III

"When a man understands how glorious a woman is, he treats her differently. When a woman understands that a man has the seeds of divinity within him, she honors him not only for who he is but for what he may become. An understanding of the divine nature allows each person to have respect for the other. The eternal view engenders a desire in men and women to learn from and share with each other"

Merrill J. Bateman

# Work

"Most of us are inherently lazy. We would rather play than work. A little play and a little loafing are good. But it is work that spells the difference in the life of a man or woman."

President Hinckley

# Work II

One of the greatest favors parents can do for their children is to teach them to work.

Elder Ashton

Teaching children the joy of honest labor is one of the greatest of all gifts you can bestow upon them.

Elder Perry

# Work III

"Our concern is not just that media producers and writers don't portray happy, fruitful marriage, but that many married couples don't take their marriages seriously enough—to work at them, protect them, nurture them, cultivate them day in and day out, week in and week out, yearlong, quarter-century long, half-a-century long, forever"

David B. Haight

# Work IV

I remind you that the gospel of work is part of "the fulness of the gospel." Though joyful, missionary work is work. Though joyful, temple work is work. Alas, a few of our underwhelmed youth work all right, but mostly at trying to please themselves.

Unfortunately, a few of our otherwise good youth are unstretched, having almost a free pass.

Elder Maxwell

# Wholesome Recreation

"Wholesome recreation is part of our religion, and a change of pace is necessary, and even its anticipation can lift the spirit"

"Families must spend more time together in work and recreation.

President Benson

# Wholesome Recreation II

"... Take time to be a real friend to your children. ...

"... Take time to read to your children. ...

"... Take time to do things together as a family" (To the Mothers in Zion, 8–10).

"With love in my heart for the fathers in Israel, may I suggest ten specific ways that fathers can give spiritual leadership to their children: ...

"Go on daddy-daughter dates and father-and-sons' outings with your children. As a family, go on campouts and picnics, to ball games and recitals, to school programs, and so forth. Having Dad there makes all the difference.

Build traditions of family vacations and trips and outings. These memories will never be forgotten by your children“

President Benson

# Wholesome Recreation III

"If marriage is a prime relationship in life, it deserves prime time!"

Russell M. Nelson

# Wholesome Recreation IV

"Now, what about our leisure time? How we use our leisure is equally as important to our joy as our occupational pursuits. Proper use of leisure requires discriminating judgment. Our leisure provides opportunity for renewal of spirit, mind, and body.

Bishop J. Richard Clarke

# **THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD – Cont.**

We warn that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

# Will they want to live with us?

To receive the blessings of the sealing that our Heavenly Father has given to us, we have to keep the commandments and conduct ourselves in such a way that our families will want to live with us in the eternities.

Robert D. Hales

# At all costs

We must have the goal not just in our minds but in our hearts. What we want is eternal life in families. We don't just want it if that is what works out, nor do we want something approaching eternal life. We want eternal life, whatever its cost in effort, pain, and sacrifice. Whenever we are tempted to make eternal life our hope instead of our determination, we might think of....

Henry B. Eyring

# We must more then hope

Don't ever let eternal life become our hope instead of our determination

Paraphrase of Harold B. Lee

# Quality of our Relationships

...the Lord measures the success of a family by the quality of its relationships. In a home where faith, love, and forgiveness are dominant, members find joy and satisfaction in being together.

Merrill J. Bateman