



THE FAMILY

A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND
COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the General Relief Society Meeting held September 23, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

WE, the ^aFirst Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that ^bmarriage between a man and a woman is ^cordained of God and that the ^dfamily is central to the Creator's plan for the ^eeternal destiny of His children.

2 All human beings—male and female—are created in the ^aimage of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of ^bheavenly parents, and, as such, each has a ^cdivine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual ^dpremortal, ^emortal, and ^feternal identity and purpose.

3 In the premortal realm, ^aspirit sons and daughters ^bknew and worshiped God as their Eternal Father and ^caccepted His plan by which His children could obtain a ^dphysical body and gain ^eearthly experience to progress toward ^fperfection and ultimately realize his or her divine destiny as an ^gheir of

eternal life. The divine ^hplan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated ⁱbeyond the grave. Sacred ^jordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to ^kreturn to the presence of God and for families to be ^lunited eternally.

4 The ^afirst 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 ^bremains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed ^conly between man and woman, lawfully wedded as ^dhusband and wife.

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

1 *a* D&C 107:22–24, 91–92.

b 1 Cor. 7:2–3; 11:11.

c D&C 49:15–16; Prov. 18:22; 4 Ne. 1:11.

d Gen. 12:1–3 (Abr. 2:11); Eph. 3:14–15.

e D&C 131:1–4; 132:19–20.

2 *a* Gen. 1:26–27; Ether 3:15–16; D&C 130:22.

b Deut. 14:1; Rom. 8:16–18.

c 2 Pet. 1:3–4.

d D&C 77:2; Ether 3:16.

e Gen. 1:27; 5:2; D&C

138:36, 39; Moses 4:26.

f Alma 11:43–44.

3 *a* D&C 93:23, 29; Moses 3:7; Abr. 3:22–23; 5:7.

b Jer. 1:5; Heb. 12:9; D&C 138:55–56.

c Moses 4:1–4; Abr. 3:27–28.

d Gen. 2:7; 3:19; D&C 88:15–19; 93:33–34.

e Alma 34:32; D&C 29:39; 122:7.

f Matt. 5:48 (3 Ne. 12:48).

g Titus 3:7; Moses 1:39.

h Alma 42:8, 16.

i Matt. 16:19; D&C 138:48.

j D&C 84:19–21; 124:30–40.

k Alma 42:23; Hel. 14:17.

l D&C 130:2; 132:17, 19.

4 *a* Gen. 1:28 (Moses 2:28).

b Gen. 9:1; D&C 49:16–17.

c D&C 42:22; Lev. 18:6–24; Rom. 1:26–32.

d Gen. 2:24–25; Heb. 13:4.

5 *a* Eccl. 11:5; Alma 19:12–13.

b D&C 59:6; Isa. 49:1, 5, 15.



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6 Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to ^alove and care for each other and for their children. ^b“Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalms 127:3). Parents have a sacred ^cduty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their ^dphysical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve one another, to ^eobserve the commandments of God and to be ^flaw-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held ^gaccountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

7 The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are ^aentitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a ^bfather and a mother who honor marital vows with complete ^cfidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when ^dfounded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, ^eprayer, repentance, forgiveness, ^frespect, love, compassion, work, and ^gwholesome recreational

activities. By divine design, fathers are to ^hpreside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to ⁱprovide the necessities of life and ^jprotection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the ^knurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to ^lhelp one another as ^mequal partners. Disability, death, or other ⁿcircumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. ^oExtended families should lend support when needed.

8 We ^awarn that individuals who ^bviolate covenants of chastity, who ^cabuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand ^daccountable before God. Further, we warn that the ^edisintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the ^fcalamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

9 We call upon ^aresponsible citizens and ^bofficers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the ^cfundamental unit of society.

6 *a* Ex. 21:10–11; Jacob 3:7.
b 2 Ne. 2:23; Moses 5:11.
c Isa. 54:13; Prov. 22:6;
 D&C 20:47, 51; 93:38–40.
d Mosiah 4:14–15; D&C
 90:25–26.
e Deut. 6:6–7; Alma 39:12.
f D&C 134:5; AofF 12.
g D&C 20:47, 51; 68:25.
 7 *a* Ps. 68:5–6; 82:3; John
 4:16–18.
b Prov. 1:8; Alma 56:47.
c Ex. 20:14, 17; Hosea 2:20;
 Matt. 19:4–9.
d John 13:13–17; Mosiah
 2:41; Abr. 1:2.
e Moses 5:4, 16; 3 Ne.

18:21; D&C 23:6.
f Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1–4.
g D&C 136:23–29.
h Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:22–33;
 D&C 121:36–43.
i Gen. 3:19; 1 Tim. 5:8;
 D&C 75:28–29; 83:2–4.
j Alma 43:45–47; D&C
 98:23–31; 134:11.
k Prov. 29:15; 31:10–31;
 1 Tim. 5:14; Titus 2:3–5.
l Moses 5:1, 3, 12; D&C
 25:5, 9, 14.
m Gen. 2:18–23; Eph. 5:21.
n Ruth 1–2; Mosiah 21:17;
 D&C 75:24–26; 136:6–11.
o Gen. 45:9–11; Ex. 18:1–7;

Lev. 25:25, 47–49; Ruth
 3:12–13; Esther 2:5–7;
 Luke 1:36–41; JS-H 1:75.
 8 *a* 1 Cor. 4:14; D&C 63:58.
b John 8:3, 11; Jacob 2:7–10;
 D&C 42:23–26.
c Ex. 21:22; Alma 50:30–31;
 Luke 17:2.
d Luke 12:2–3; Alma
 5:15–18; Morm. 9:2–5.
e Isa. 4:1; Matt. 10:21.
f Mal. 4:1; JS-M 1:23–30;
 D&C 1:9–17; 109:45–46.
 9 *a* Mosiah 29:25–27.
b D&C 134:2–7; Alma
 51:2–8.
c Ps. 68:6; D&C 48:6; 51:3.