



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

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 _____ of God and that the family is _____ to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

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

In the _____ 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 _____ and ultimately realize his or her divine destiny as an heir of _____. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the _____. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for _____ to be united eternally.

The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for _____ as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in _____. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred _____ 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 _____ appointed. We affirm the _____ of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

Husband and wife have a solemn _____ to love and care for each other and for their children. "Children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalms 127:3). Parents have a _____ duty to rear their children in love and

righteousness, to provide for their physical and _____ 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 _____ before God for the discharge of these obligations.

The _____ is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is _____ to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to _____ within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete _____. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of f_____, p_____, r_____, f_____, r_____, l_____, c_____, w_____, and wholesome r_____ a_____. By divine design, _____ are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and _____ for their families. _____ are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these _____ responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as _____ partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. _____ families should lend support when needed.

We _____ that individuals who violate covenants of _____, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand _____ before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the _____ 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 _____ of society.