

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.

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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.

We

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.

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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.

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Gender

is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

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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.

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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.

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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*.

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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).

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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.

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Husbands

and wives— mothers and fathers— will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

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The

family is ordained of God. *Marriage* between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan.

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divine design, fathers are to *provide* over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to *provide* the necessities of life and protection for their families.

By

marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities.

Successful

in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Happiness

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*.

Children

Mothers

are primarily responsible for the *nurture* of their children.

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In

these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as

equal partners.

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Disability,

death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend

support when needed.

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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.

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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.

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and wholesome recreational activities.

prayer, repentance,

15

work,

The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

A Proclamation to the World

The Family:

marrriages and families are established and maintained on principles of *faith,*

Successful

forgiveness, respect, love, compassion,