



# 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.