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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 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 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.**

IN THE PREMORTAL REALM,  
SPIRIT SONS AND DAUGHTERS KNEW AND WORSHIPPED

— **G O D** —

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 THEIR

DIVINE DESTINY AS HEIRS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

THE DIVINE PLAN OF  
HAPPINESS ENABLES  
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS  
TO BE PERPETUATED BEYOND THE GRAVE  
SACRED ORDINANCES  
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  
& WIFE

WE DECLARE THAT

GOD'S COMMANDMENT

FOR HIS CHILDREN TO MULTIPLY &  
REPLENISH

AND THE EARTH REMAINS IN FORCE.

WE FURTHER DECLARE THAT  
GOD HAS COMMANDED THAT THE  
S A C R E D P O W E R S O F  
**PROCREATION**  
ARE TO BE EMPLOYED ONLY  
BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN,  
LAWFULLY WEDDED AS  
**& HUSBAND**  
**W I F E**  
AND THE EARTH REMAINS IN FORCE.

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.



# HUSBAND & WIFE

HAVE A SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY TO  
LOVE AND CARE  
FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

“CHILDREN ARE AN  
HERITAGE OF THE LORD”

( P S A L M 1 2 7 : 3 ) .

**P A R E N T S**

**HAVE A SACRED DUTY TO REAR**

**THEIR CHILDREN IN <sup>L O V E</sup>  
RIGHTEOUSNESS &**

**TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR  
PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS,**

**AND TO TEACH THEM TO**

**LOVE AND SERVE**

**ONE ANOTHER, OBSERVE THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD,**

**AND BE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS WHEREVER THEY LIVE.**

**H U S B A N D S   A N D   W I V E S**

**—MOTHERS AND FATHERS—**

**WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE BEFORE **GOD**  
FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THESE OBLIGATIONS.**

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 & 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 &  
FAMILIES**

**ARE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED ON PRINCIPLES OF**

**FAITH, PRAYER, REPENTANCE,**

**FORGIVENESS, RESPECT, LOVE,**

**& COMPASSION, WORK,**

**& WHOLESOME RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**

BY DIVINE DESIGN,  
**FATHERS**

ARE TO PRESIDE OVER THEIR FAMILIES IN  
**LOVE & 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**

— A N D —

**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.**

**W E W A R N**

**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  
PROPHET



WE CALL UPON RESPONSIBLE  
CITIZENS AND OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT  
EVERYWHERE TO PROMOTE  
THOSE MEASURES DESIGNED TO  
MAINTAIN &  
STRENGTHEN &  
THE FAMILY  
AS THE FUNDAMENTAL  
UNIT OF SOCIETY.

**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.**