

D & C Lesson 45 “THE FAMILY IS ORDAINED OF GOD”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, December 2001

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” (3 John 1:4)

1. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World”

A. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” was presented by President Gordon B. Hinckley at the general Relief Society meeting in September 1995. Since that time it has been reprinted in many languages for Church members and others throughout the world. It has also been presented to government leaders in many lands.

B. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “Why do we have this proclamation on the family now? Because the family is under attack. All across the world families are falling apart. The place to begin to improve society is in the home. Children do, for the most part, what they are taught. We are trying to make the world better by making the family stronger.” [“Inspirational Thoughts,” *Ensign*, August 1997, p. 5]

C. ¶ 1: The Proclamation states that marriage and family are “ordained of God” and “central to [His] plan for the eternal destiny of His children.” [See *1 Corinthians 11:11*; *D&C 131:1-4*]

D. ¶ 2: The Proclamation states that we are all spirit children of God, created in His image. [See *Genesis 1:26-27*; *Moses 2:26-27*; *Ether 3:6-16*; *Hebrews 12:9*: “Father of spirits”]

E. ¶ 3: Sacred ordinances make it possible for families to be together eternally.

F. ¶ 4 & 5: The power to create mortal life is sacred.

1. **Elder Henry B. Eyring:** “Children are the inheritance of the Lord to us in this life and also in eternity. Eternal life is not only to have forever our descendants from this life. It is also to have eternal increase. . . . We can understand why our Heavenly Father commands us to reverence life and to cherish the powers that produce it as sacred. If we do not have those reverential feelings in this life, how could our Father give them to us in the eternities?”

[“The Family,” *Ensign*, February 1998, p. 15]

2. **Elder Jeffrey R. Holland:** “The body is an essential part of the soul. . . . We declare that one who uses the God-given body of another without divine sanction abuses the very soul of that individual, abuses the central purpose and processes of life. . . . In sexual transgression the soul is at stake—the body and the spirit.” [*Ensign*, November 1998, p. 76]

G. ¶ 6: Parents have a sacred duty to care for each other and teach their children.

1. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “When you are married, be fiercely loyal one to another. Selfishness is the great destroyer of happy family life. If you will make your first concern the comfort, the well-being, and the happiness of your companion, sublimating any personal concern to that loftier goal, you will be happy, and your marriage will go on throughout eternity.” [*Ensign*, December 1995, p. 67]

H. ¶ 7: Successful marriages and families are based on righteous principles.

1. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “If there is to be a return to old and sacred values, it must begin in the home. It is here that truth is learned, that integrity is cultivated, that self-discipline is instilled, and that love is nurtured.” [*Ensign*, November 1998, p. 99]

I. ¶ 8 & 9: Strengthening families is everyone’s responsibility.

1. “*Responsibility of Parents*” video: [from *Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Presentations* (53912). Seven minutes. (Excellent!)]

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