

Families – The Proclamation on the Family

“The Family – A Proclamation to the World”

The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles (Sept 23, 1995)

President Gordon B. Hinckley’s book:

“Standing For Something — 10 Neglected Virtues That Will Heal Our Hearts and Homes”

Steven R. Covey’s Book:

“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families”

Objectives:

- Help us all strengthen our commitment to strengthen our homes and to put our families first.
- To help us understand the basic principles that should guide our homes as we go through the ups and downs. To help us recognize this is a process, and that the greatest joys are found within our families.
- To encourage doing as President Hinckley asks, in standing up for what we believe.

Intro Points:

Why the proclamation: (to the world)

- There is a battle raging. War. Immense battle. Assault on the home and family values.
- Rome’s fall—contrast to what is happening today:
One of the world’s great historians, Edward Gibbon, identified five main causes of the decline and fall of Roman civilization: (Covey, p. 133)
 1. The breakdown of the family structure
 2. The weakening of a sense of individual responsibility
 3. Excessive taxes and government control and intervention
 4. Seeking pleasures that became increasingly hedonistic, violent, and immoral
 5. The decline of religion*(Hedonistic: A doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life. As opposed, for example, to some of the teachings of the Savior of caring for our neighbor, joy thru sacrifice for others, service. Take the sacrifices of Mother Teresa for example.)* (Pronounced with a long “e”.)
- “But the jet stream has changed—dramatically. *And to “go with the flow” today is family-fatal!*” (Covey, p. 16) Everywhere children go they are faced with anti-family values, ideas, influences, at school, friends homes, on TV, in our institutions, on the internet, everywhere. We must take a proactive role, a leadership role, in our families to teach, nurture, love, build unity and love.

Families can be Eternal – Goal: Celestial, Eternal, Temple marriage.

Goal: “Beautify family culture” (Steven R. Covey).

Not that all is perfect, we are human, but we keep coming back, keep trying, we care deeply for one another, enjoy being together, we are focused on eternal goals, and relationships are based on respect of one another. We move from “me” to “we”.

Recognize we are human. We fail, we make mistakes, ... But we keep trying

“The Magic Ratio” – 5:1 ratio – 5x positive feedback as negative, the marriage will be strong
“Emotional Bank Account” (Covey’s term)

“Simply love her” – Love is a verb, something you do..., and it grows.

What we can do –

Take a proactive role in our families

Take a proactive role in our communities

Family Home Evenings, prayer, things together, one-on-one time, listen, love, respect, ...

The Family Proclamation — *[Walk quickly through the attached summary of key points]*

(Show the proclamation. Available on the Internet. Can order copies for framing.)

Note the sense of urgency. Note the vision presented. Standing for Something.

Blessings to our homes and communities come from taking it to heart.

Pres Hinckley's book — *[Walk quickly through the attached book summary notes]*

(The second half of the book focuses on families)

1. The 10 Virtues “that will heal our hearts and homes”
2. The Guardians of Virtue: 1. Marriage 2. The family
3. Ten specific things that can help bring a turnaround in our homes, in our nation
4. His call for leadership: in our homes, in our nation

Vision:

Celestial families, Temple families. Families ARE the best way, God's way.

Joy of the gospel, fruit of the tree of life in our lives and families

We hear each other, love, respect, warmth, listening, empathy, charity

Do everything in our power to bless our families

Our priorities based on eternal principles, goals, objectives

Summary:

The principles apply whether we have a large family, we are couple, or we are alone. We are all part of a family, an extended family, a ward family, a world family,... We can all take a proactive role.

No one said family life would be conflict free:

A key ability in any relationship is the ability to resolve conflicts. There are many kinds of relationships but as relationships are built on love and personal respect, and as the parities *can find ways to resolve conflicts*, the relationship can endure and grow.

“The key to the 99 is the one.” (Covey)

How we treat each other: with Love and Respect

Equal partners—A key to marriage

Listen, apologize, forgive...

The Magic Ratio: 5:1 (positive feedback over negative)

Take a proactive role.

- Stand for family values
- It is a battle. Pres Hinckley has called us to stand up and “Stand for Something” and lead in our families and communities.
- Leadership in our families. Leadership in our communities.

Hold to the Iron Rod—will carry thru the mists of darkness, the laughter, ridicule, trials

Do the little things: (they may seem small, but they are BIG, build a strong foundation)

Family prayer, FHE, family time, one-on-one time, apologize, forgive, respect, care, love, listen, have fun, take specific proactive steps, have a since of purpose as a family.

Covey's analogy to a flight: Off course 90% of time? So what?

Constant correction gets you there. Need a vision and a flight plan. Never give up.

Apply basic principles. Take little steps. Little by little has impact.

Express my gratitude to my wife, Dianne, who has taught these principles and who has blessed our home with her concern, her loving care and attention, and her love.

Detailed summaries - referred to above:

Some key phrases from “The Family—A Proclamation to the World”:

- Solemnly “Proclaim”
 - Marriage between a man and woman—ordained of God
 - The family is central to God’s plan
- Each of us is a son or daughter of God, each has a divine nature. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual identity and purpose
- Plan of happiness – we accepted
- His plan enables relationships to be continued beyond the grave
- Temples – sacred ordinances and covenants – to return to God – to unite families eternally
- First commandment – multiply and replenish the earth – still part of plan – but to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.
- We affirm the sanctity of life.
- Parent’s solemn responsibility: Love and care for each other, and their children – Children are a heritage from the Lord (Psalms 127:3)
- Our duty – rear children in love and righteousness, provide for, teach, set example
- The family is ordained of God.
- Children 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.
- Happiness in family life most likely when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Successful marriage and families are founded upon principles of: faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities.
- Roles:
 - By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and 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.
 - Fathers and mothers are obligated to help each other as equal partners.
 - Individual circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation.
- Warnings:
 - Those who violate the covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail in these responsibilities will be accountable one day before God
 - Disintegration of the family will bring on society the calamities foretold
- Call on citizens, government, everywhere to promote measures designed to maintain and strengthen families as the fundamental unit of society.

From Pres Hinckley's book ("Standing for Something ...") —

The Ten Virtues:

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| 1. Love | The Lodestar of Life |
| 2. Honesty | Where There is Honesty, Other Virtues Will Follow |
| 3. Morality | Making a Case for Morality |
| 4. Civility | Our Fading Civility |
| 5. Learning | "With All Thy Getting Get Understanding" |
| 6. Forgiveness and Mercy | Twin Virtues |
| 7. Thrift and Industry | Getting Our Homes in Order |
| 8. Gratitude | A Sign of Maturity |
| 9. Optimism | In the Face of Cynicism |
| 10. Faith | Our Only Hope |

The Guardians of Virtue:

- I. Marriage What God hath Joined Together

Four Cornerstones:

1. Mutual respect and loyalty to one another.
2. The soft answer.
3. Financial honesty
4. Prayer

- II. The Family We Can Save Our Nation by Saving Our Homes

Ten specific things that can help bring a turnaround in our homes, in our nation:

1. Accept responsibility for our role as parents and fulfill our obligations to our children.
2. Get married and stay married.
3. Put the father back at the head of the home.
4. Recognize and value the supreme importance of mothers.
5. Celebrate and treat children as our most priceless treasures.
6. Discipline and train children with love.
7. Teach values to children.
8. Teach children to work
9. Read to and with children.
10. Pray together.

The Loneliness of Moral Leadership (From Pres. Hinckley's book)

“In leadership, in standing for principle, there is loneliness. But men and women of integrity must live with their convictions. Unless they do so, they are miserable.”

“What we desperately need today on all fronts—in our homes and communities, in schoolrooms and boardrooms, and certainly throughout society at large—are leaders, men and women who are willing to stand for something. We need people who are honest; who are willing to stand up for decency, truth, integrity, morality, and law and order; who respond to their consciences even when it is unpopular to do so—perhaps *especially* when it is unpopular to do so.”

We must do this in a way that is persuasive, without being heavy-handed or offensive.

“The problem with most of us is that we are afraid to stand up for what we believe, to be witnesses for what is true and right. We want to do the right thing, but we are troubled by fears. So we sit back, and the world drifts about us, and society increasingly adopts attitudes and standards of behavior that most of us do not approve of.”

“Never in the history of the world has there been a more profound need for leaders of principle to step forward.”

“It is not wise or even possible to divorce private behavior from public leadership... By its every nature, true leadership carries with it the burden of being an example.”

“We are involved in an intense battle. It is a battle between...the design of the Almighty on the one hand and that of Lucifer on the other.”

Leadership demands loyalty.

We fight for one another (as do troops in battle).

As we contribute in a meaningful way to our society our capacity to do so is increased.

The wonder of man...

“The distance between mediocrity and excellence can be ever so small. ... A little extra effort can result in a tremendous difference. We would all do well to walk a higher road of excellence.”

The way we contribute, our excellence can be in our unique ways... caring for those in need, music, ...

“*the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong*” (Ecclesiastes 9:11) “Life’s winners are generally those who endure to the end. What a tremendous strength there is in commitment!”

“The time has come for good people everywhere to demonstrate that they stand for something—something that is virtuous and clean and worthwhile. To that end, may we move forward with faith in the Almighty, and with a determination to live virtuous lives and to return to our society the element of goodness on which it was founded.”