

Why Marriage and Family?

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Note - This is an expanded version of the notes I took while at a Know Your Religion lecture given by **R. Scott Strong**. It discusses some of the deeper doctrine of marriage with its resulting family, and why they are at the center of the gospel. These notes include several of my thoughts interspersed among the ideas given by the speaker. If you like it, give him the credit. If you don't, then blame me.

Introduction

There is a false doctrine embraced by many in the world which proposes that our lives are our own and that whatever we do is our business, affecting only ourselves. It is a foolish idea and is readily observable to be false if one will take an overall view and contemplate for a few moments. A young husband got involved in pornography, which fact eventually became known to his wife and others. He was counseled by his bishop. He wife pled with him, and other efforts were made to help him give up his addiction. He rebuffed these offers of assistance, saying in essence, "What I do is my own business and, as long as I'm not hurting anyone, is just fine." Eventually, he found that his wife couldn't measure up to the standards presented in the magazines and he divorced her, leaving her to raise their children alone. She wasn't able to raise her children and gain a sufficient income at the same time so the family eventually needed assistance, paid for by others. The children also had problems, not having a father in the home to set a proper example and provide guidance. Their problems required public assistance, and included illegitimate children and even a suicide. The husband eventually got AIDS through his immoral activities and passed the disease to others before dying. His many thousands of dollars of hospital bills were paid for by the taxes of the people. What he claimed was his own business reached out and adversely affected the lives of thousands of others to varying degrees, including death. It crossed generations, and even affected the unborn.

Our choices impact this world. What we do is not insignificant, and the consequences of our choices run long and deep. This is one of the great lessons of our mortal probation.

Marriage

There will never be a Zion without good marriages and families. In *The Family: A Proclamation to the World* the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve state that "the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of his children." They also state that all human beings, male and female are created in the image of God. Careful consideration of this statement will lead one to understand that God is not a lone Man, but rather a Man and a Woman, bonded in Eternal Marriage. There never was a god alone. Gods are made of two parts, male and female. The "complete man" is husband and wife. This is one of the many great mysteries of godliness and of the eternities.

We are halves, each of us, and there are three possible configurations in which we can exist. One is Single. This configuration is impotent. Human beings can accomplish many things as individuals but they cannot perpetuate the race or live the life of a god in this state. A second configuration is Homosexual. This, like the first, is also impotent and incapable of parenthood and godhood. The third state is Heterosexual. Not only is it the sole potent configuration, but has the potential of becoming omnipotent, perpetuating the true race of gods in the heavens.

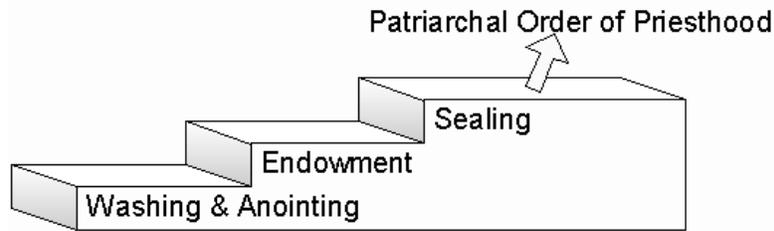
What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19.)

Men and women by themselves do not possess the keys to multiply, to procreate. Our temples (bodies) are very different intentionally. Separate, our keys lie dormant. But together, the keys and powers are activated into a synergistic state, where $1 + 1 = \infty$.

Ordinances

The 2nd priesthood is patriarchal authority. Go to and finish the temple, and God will fill it with power, and you will then receive more knowledge concerning this priesthood. (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p323.)

Men cannot have the fullness of the priesthood without woman. Marriage is an order of the priesthood. We cannot have the fullness of the priesthood without the temple. Baptism is an ordinance of salvation, but washing and anointing, endowments, and sealings are ordinances required for exaltation. In D&C 124 God refers to these as a single ordinance.



The First Principles and Ordinances of the gospel are given to prepare us to receive the First Comforter, the Holy Ghost. The Second Principles and Ordinances of the Gospel (the Endowment) are available only in the temple and are given to prepare us to receive the Second Comforter, Jesus Christ.

Baptism washes us for our own sins. Washing in the endowment is to cleanse us from the blood and sins of this generation. We must warn this generation or their blood will come upon us.

Procreation, Birth, and the Temple

Across the altar during temple marriage we promise to keep all the laws, rites, and ordinances pertaining to that state. The first law given is to multiply and replenish the earth. This was Adam and Eve's first commandment. It pertains only to marriage. The word rite is essentially the same as ritual. The ritual associated with this law is to become one flesh. In the symbolism of Eden, when this ritual takes place the Living Waters pass Seed to the Tree of Life, which then bears fruit. This is an abomination outside the bonds of marriage. The ordinance which pertains to the law is birth.

We came to mortality to get a physical body. Our bodies are helpmeets to our spirits. (D&C 93:33.) Bodies are temples for our spirits. Bodies are temple work. As such they are only created in temples, the temple of the mother's body. Temple work is always the same. Children are washed and anointed in the mother's watery womb. She then clothes the body in a skin to be a shield and a protection to it throughout its life. The child is then endowed with unique attributes such as hands, mind, face, etc. During all this the child is intimately linked to the mother through the umbilical cord, receiving all nutrients via this vital connection. At some point the body and spirit are sealed together as one. All these activities are performed by the woman as the man stands by in an support role. Man has the key. Woman creates.

After the (symbolic) death of the old person, the man steps in to perform the rebirth ordinances. This requires priesthood and is performed by the man while the woman stands by in a support role. The man baptizes the person in a watery womb (baptismal font) to start the second birth. He performs the other ordinances, washing and anointing, endowment, and sealing, in the temple to bring the person to the full measure of his creation. Man also performs the ordinance of resurrection to reseal the body and spirit forever (JD Vol 15, p137)

The Fall brought death into the world. Accordingly, there must be water, blood, and spirit involved in the rebirth, just as there were in the original birth (Moses 6:59). There is no inequality between man and woman. They are different for a reason, to be able to perform the essential ordinances in the proper way to bring the human family into existence and nurture them to godhood.

Mystery of Parenthood

God often hides the mysteries of eternity in plain sight. In the state of mortality, immortality is viewed as the ultimate achievement because it overcomes death. On the other hand, almost anyone can participate in parenthood, and it is sometimes perceived as common and not very important. Too often careers and worldly pursuits are placed above marriage and parenthood.

In the eternal world everyone lives forever. It is a given. It is common. Parenthood is the rarest state in eternity. Nothing is more precious. Only exalted beings possess this power. There is a nature and a power associated with marriage and parenthood. This power and nature are a package. They only go together. In the eternal world there are no sexual powers or desires outside of eternal marriage. Nothing is more important than marriage and family. Without marriage there is no posterity. Without posterity there is no kingdom. Without a kingdom there is no king or queen.

We, as a people, are leaving marriage and family seeking for who knows what. Riches, pleasure, power, immortality through glory and fame? We must be very careful to keep our birthright and not sell it for something with little value. 65% of the mothers in Utah now work outside the home. In most cases both husband and wife are earning at the maximum level they can, and living a life style based on that income and debt. There is no way to gain further

income. Elder Russell Ballard said the time is coming when the church will be family, with no organized units. How will we bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord if both parents are locked into full time jobs, and the full responsibility of their upbringing rests on the parents. Worse, what if they are trying to counter the teachings of the world?

We must not be deceived. We need to see the mystery that is before our eyes. We must remember that we came here to become like Father and Mother, whose full purpose is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of their children. We must make our temple marriages eternal marriages, and our primary goals family oriented. Anything less will leave us without godhood—impotent and single for eternity.