

A Richardson Studies Journal Collection on

God's Law of Chastity

Doctrine & Meditations on Chastity, Dating,
Marriage



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Nate Richardson is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This book is written to benefit people of faith & goodwill everywhere.



Abbreviated Contents

Part 1: Chastity: Sexuality Within the Bounds the Lord has Set

Part 2: Dating & Marriage: The Covenant Priority

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PART 1: CHASTITY

Sexual Sin Next To Murder: Official Church Position

“The doctrine of this Church is that sexual sin — the illicit sexual relations of men and women — stands, in its enormity, next to murder. The Lord has drawn no essential distinctions between fornication, adultery, and harlotry or prostitution. Each has fallen under His solemn and awful condemnation.” (First Presidency Message of October 1942)

James R. Clark, Messages of the First Presidency, Vol.6, pp.170-185; Improvement Era 45:686-87, 757-59, 762-65; 767, November 1942; Liahona, the Elders’ Journal 40:194-203, October 13, 1942.

Read by President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., at the first session of the 113th Semi-annual Conference, Saturday, October 3, 1942, in the Tabernacle, Temple Square, Salt Lake City.

See <https://josephsmithfoundation.org/first-presidency-message-of-october-1942/>

Additional Quotes on Seriousness of Sexual Sin

(Special thanks to JSF researchers for helping compile these quotes, who are always open to the sharing of their quotes. See this page for some added detail beyond the quotes: [Is sexual sin next to murder? Book of Mormon Central fact check | Latter-day Answers \(ldsanswers.org\)](#))

Additional Quotes on Virtue in Chastity Being Worth Dying For

Disclaimer- These quotes are **not** to say that you should kill yourself if you have lost your virtue in unchastity, as some have criticized. They are merely to emphasize that it is morally superior to be martyred than to voluntarily give up sexual purity. They are to show that we have high commitments to virtue. If we die in the path of duty, all is well. If we die spiritually by relinquishing our chastity, oh how dreadful is our state! Repentance (spiritual healing) for such is not easy!

“...for we have received instructions from our youth, that the boy shall be as clean and as chaste as the girl ; that there is no double standard, and that each of us regards preservation of chastity as more precious than life itself”

(Apostle Melvin J Ballard, October 1937 General Conference, [archive.org](#))

“And now you young people – May I directly entreat you to be chaste. Please believe me when I say that chastity is worth more than life itself. This is the doctrine my parents taught me ; it is truth. Better die chaste than live unchaste. The salvation of your very souls is concerned in this.”

(J. Reuben Clark, 1st Counselor in 1st Presidency, October 1938 General Conference, [archive.org](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=100&cc=2323000))

“Some years ago the First Presidency said to the youth of the Church, “Better dead, clean, than alive, unclean” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1942, p. 89). I remember how my father impressed the seriousness of unchastity upon my mind. He and I were standing in the railroad station in Rexburg, Idaho, in the early morning of November 12, 1920. We heard the train whistle and knew that in three minutes I would be on my way to Australia to fill a mission. In that short interval my father said to me, among other things, “My son, you are going a long way from home. But your mother and I, your brother and sisters, will be with you constantly in our thoughts and prayers, we shall rejoice with you in your successes, and we shall sorrow with you in your disappointments. When you are released and return, we shall be glad to greet you and welcome you back into the family circle. But remember this, my son, we would rather come to this station and take your body off the train in a casket than to have you come home unclean, having lost your virtue.” I pondered that statement at the time. I did not then have the full understanding of it that my father had, but I have never forgotten it.” (Marion G Romney, 2nd Counselor in 1st Presidency, April 1979 General Conference, [lds.org](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=100&cc=2323000))

” There is no true Latter-day Saint who would not rather bury a son or a daughter than to have him or her lose his or her virtue—realizing that virtue is of more value than anything else in all the wide world” (President Heber J Grant, Oct 1944 General Conference, [archive.org](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=100&cc=2323000))

“Your virtue is worth more than your life. Please, young folk, preserve your virtue even if you lose your lives.”

(President David O McKay as quoted by Spencer W Kimball, “The Miracle of Forgiveness”, pg. 63, [archive.org](https://www.archive.org))

“Loss of virtue is too great a price to pay even for the preservation of one’s life – better dead clean, than alive unclean. Many is the faithful Latter-day Saint parent who has sent a son or a daughter on a mission or otherwise out into the world with the direction: “I would rather have you come back in a pine box with your virtue than return alive without it.”

(Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine”, 2nd edition, pg. 124 [archive.org](https://www.archive.org))

Intimacy in Marriage a Good Thing – Parly P Pratt

-“Some persons have supposed that our natural affections were the results of a fallen and corrupt nature, and that they are ‘carnal, sensual, and devilish,’ and therefore ought to be resisted, subdued, or overcome as so many evils which prevent our perfection, or progress in the spiritual life. In short, that they should be greatly subdued in this world, and in the world to come entirely done away...Such persons have mistaken the source and fountain of happiness altogether. They have not one correct idea of the nature of the enjoyments, or happiness of heaven, or earth; of this life or any other.... Our natural affections are planted in us by the Spirit of God, for a wise purpose; and they are the very main-springs of life and happiness-they are the cement of all virtuous and heavenly society-they are the essence of charity, or love; and therefore never fail, but endure forever.... There is not a more pure and holy principle in existence than the affection which glows in the bosom of a virtuous man for his companion.” (Autob. of Parly P. Pratt p.

Introductory Thoughts on Sexual Sin Being Similar to Murder

Some have said that it would be more serious to, for example beat someone, than to participate in sexual sin. Perhaps you could look at beating that person as the prelude to murdering them, and of course murder is more serious than sexual sin.

Adultery often grows into additional treachery. Obviously abortion (murder) is a twin sin to adultery, so why do people think this is such a stretch? Obviously children born out of wedlock are also often orphaned or otherwise neglected in life, and this twin sin obviously is a grievous one as well.

There could be something to be said about those who have made covenants to not commit adultery and to be chaste, of how this plays a factor, as those people are in line to birth many souls, and their ability to do that will be cut off as they break covenants. This would make these sexual sins most grievous indeed, for failing to create life when such is your ability and calling is similar taking life, as you're forbidding the life from appearing in the first place.

And there's always something to be said about people who are acting in ignorance vs those who know better.

I actually once had a dream about a man who had told me to stop having children earlier that day, in the dream this man gave me instructions to kill someone. I was most perplexed about this dream and why this good man would do this, and while confiding with a friend it dawned upon me that it is a very serious thing to tell a covenant priesthood holder to not have children, limiting the life that would otherwise have been, which could be at least

symbolically represented by taking life. Consider for a moment of God our Heavenly Father and His Wife our Mother were casual in their sexual relations, and consequently, they did not go on to exaltation, did not go on to form our spirits and bodies, nor this world, and none of us would be alive. The drama and magnitude of this fall would be monumental beyond our ability to comprehend!

Whether you want to be technical about ranking sins in one way or another, one thing is certain. Sexual sin is of an extremely serious nature. The meaning of sexual relations has been completely lost to this generation, who thinks that they are merely a sport, or a currency to be casually exchanged. These relations are meant to be guarded most carefully, and to be used in only the most solemn agreement of permanent forever marriage. Marriage was instituted by God as a way for mankind to become like Him. It is a way for us to show whether we respect the ways of the Gods, whether we wish to advance to become like them.

The whole point of all this comparing chastity to murder is to say that **if you have the opportunity to compromise your virtue to save your life, you don't do it!**

There's a famous story of a woman in a POW camp who intentionally got impregnated by a soldier so she could be released. This was the **WRONG** choice! Enough of the moral grey area!

Another case people like to use is "if medicine to save your son's life was too expensive, would you steal it?" The correct answer is **NO!** How have people lost sight of this?

Moral thinking would save our society politically as well: what would happen if we voted for what was best for the whole, not just best for ourselves? I hear people say, "I voted for that person because they wanted a certain policy which would help my disabled child, even though that person is bad in many other ways." This is not right! Would you curse 1 million people in order to bless 1? **THAT** is immoral. The Christian way is 1 for all, not all for 1.

Another interesting point is that "murder" can mean more than just killing someone's body. It can mean killing someone's spirit, or in

other words, leading someone to sin. "...I had murdered many of his children, or rather led them away unto destruction..." (Alma 36:14) Sin leads to spiritual death, separation from God. Jesus said don't fear those who can kill the body, but those who can kill the spirit, or lead us to hell. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matt. 10:28)

Quotes: Unchastity Serious Sin Next To Murder (check for duplicates with the following essays)

-“We accept without reservation or qualification the affirmation of Deity, through an ancient Nephite prophet: “For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts.” (Jacob 2:28.) We hold that sexual sin is second only to the shedding of innocent blood in the category of personal crimes; and that the adulterer shall have no part in the exaltation of the blessed. We proclaim as the word of the Lord: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” “He that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith.”” (Improvement Era, June, 1918, Vol. 20, p. 738; Doc. and Cov. 63:16. (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine: Selections from the Sermons and Writings of Joseph F. Smith,*

compiled by John A. Widtsoe [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1939], 310.))

-“And now we desire with holy zeal to emphasize the enormity of sexual sins. Though often regarded as insignificant by those not knowing the will of God, they are, in his eyes an abomination, and if we are to remain his favored people they must be shunned as the gates of hell. The evil results of these sins are so patent in vice, crime, misery and disease that it would appear that all, young and old, must perceive and sense them. They are destroying the world. If we are to be preserved we must abhor them, shun them, not practice the least of them, for they weaken and enervate, they kill man spiritually, they make him unfit for the company of the righteous and the presence of God.” (*Juvenile Instructor*, Vol. 37, p. 400, July 1, 1902. Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine: Selections from the Sermons and Writings of Joseph F. Smith*, compiled by John A. Widtsoe [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1939], 275.)

-“The man and the woman who engage in this ordinance of matrimony are engaging in something that is of such far-reaching character, and is of such vast importance, that thereby hangs life and death, and eternal increase. Thereupon depends eternal happiness, or eternal misery. For this reason, God has guarded this sacred institution by the most severe penalties, and has declared that whosoever is untrue to the marriage relation, whosoever is guilty of adultery, shall be put to death. This is scriptural law, though it is not practiced today, because modern civilization does not recognize the laws of God in relation to moral status of mankind. The Lord commanded, “Whosoever sheddeth innocent blood, by man shall his blood be shed.” Thereby God has given the law. Life is an important thing. No one has any right to take life, unless God commanded it. The law of God as to violation of the marriage covenant is just as strict, and is on a parallel with law against murder notwithstanding the former is not carried out.” Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine: Selections from the Sermons and Writings of Joseph F. Smith*, compiled by John A. Widtsoe [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1939], 342.

-“Satan is trying to inflame these people to engage in sexual relations, outside holy wedlock, the sin which the Lord has

said is next to murder in its seriousness. Clothe yourself with the armor of righteousness. Don't give way in a moment of weakness. Safeguard that citadel of purity. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, if you will keep it clean and pure.” (73-06, p. 4) (Harold B. Lee, *The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, edited by Clyde J. Williams [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1996], 215.)

-“It was Alma who said there is no forgiveness without repentance. There is no repentance without suffering. (Alma 39:6.) Many people feel a little sorry and offer one or two little prayers to their Heavenly Father for forgiveness. But that is not enough when they have committed a serious sin. Breaking the law of chastity is one of the most serious sins next to murder.” (Spencer W Kimball, Amsterdam, General Session, pp. 4–7.)

-“One crime seems to demand another, and sometimes cowardly people, because of possible scandal and social ostracism and not having the courage to meet and solve problems, add to their sexual sin that crime of destroying an

unborn child. These twin crimes rate very high in the category of horrible ones, next to murder, according to the scriptures.” (Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1972], 177.)

-“Next to Murder in Seriousness – The enormity of this sin is underlined by numerous scriptures, and particularly by Alma’s words to his immoral son: “Know ye not, my son, that these things are an abomination in the sight of the Lord; yea, most abominable above all sins save it be the shedding of innocent blood or denying the Holy Ghost?” (Al. 39:5.) The Lord apparently rates adultery close to premeditated murder, for he said: “And again, I command thee that thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife; nor seek thy neighbor’s life.” (D&C 19:25.) To a young man seeking help who had allowed himself to indulge heavily in fornication but was not quite yet repentant, I wrote: ... Your sin is the most serious thing you could have done in your youth this side of murder.” (Spencer W. Kimball, *The Miracle of Forgiveness* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1969], 266.)

-“The Church of Jesus Christ has gone forward with its policy of progress and development. Its teachings are designed by God to give to men an abundant life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come. It teaches that men should be honest and upright, and that they should love their fellowmen next to God. It teaches a single moral standard by which men and women everywhere should adhere to the high standard of chastity. “Immorality is next to murder,” is a statement frequently made by its leaders.” (Spencer W. Kimball, *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, edited by Edward L. Kimball [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1982], 150.)

“In the category of sins, the Book of Mormon places unchastity next to murder (see Alma 39:5). As Alma states, “Now . . . I would that ye should repent and forsake your sins, and go no more after the lusts of your eyes, . . . for except ye do this ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God” (Alma 39:9). If we are to cleanse the inner vessel, we must forsake immorality and be clean (see Alma 60:23).” (CR April 1986, Ensign 16 [May 1986]: 4-5.)

-““Thou shalt not commit adultery,” and also, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife” (Exodus 20:14, 17). Here God gives the great law of chastity that lies at the base of purity of family blood and the undefiled home. When the ancient prophets desired to excoriate Israel for her sins, they did it by comparing her to the prostitute. In the category of sins, unchastity stands next to murder, nor may we forget that growing crime of abortion, which often follows unchastity.” (Ezra Taft Benson, *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], 277.)

-“I think also that our Heavenly Father expects the youth of our church to become exalted in the celestial kingdom. We’re not striving for the lower kingdoms. We’re not candidates for the telestial or terrestrial kingdom. The young people of this church are candidates for the celestial kingdom and the highest degree of glory in that kingdom. That requires a great deal that has to do with our day-to-day standards. This means not just being married in the temple; not just being a good citizen; not just being happy, as measured by the world. It means living every standard of the Church fully. To our young people it means keeping themselves clean in body and in mind. It means that they go to the marriage altar pure and

clean. It means that they will reserve for the marriage relationship those sweet and intimate associations which the God of heaven intended should be a part of marriage, and not be indulged in outside the marriage covenant. The curse of this age is unchastity—next to murder in the category of crimes. No, we cannot let down our standards. We cannot indulge in promiscuous relations outside the marriage covenant without suffering ill effects from it. Any time we break a law of God, we pay the penalty in heartache, in sadness, in remorse, in lack of self-respect.” (Ezra Taft Benson, *God, Family, Country: Our Three Great Loyalties* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1974], 195 – 196.)

-“Immorality is next to murder in God’s category of crime, and always brings with it attendant remorse. A person cannot indulge in promiscuous relations without suffering ill effects from it. He cannot do wrong and feel right—it is impossible. Anytime one breaks a law of God, he pays a penalty in heartache, in sadness, in remorse, in lack of self-respect, and he removes himself from contact with the Spirit of God. Is it any wonder that those who indulge in sex relations outside of

marriage deny God?” (Ezra Taft Benson, *This Nation Shall Endure* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1977], 122.)

-“The Church lays great stress on the sanctity of the home and teaches that children are a blessing from the Lord. There is no principle on which the Latter-day Saints lay greater emphasis than the sacredness of the marriage covenant. In Mormon theology adultery is next to murder in gravity. Strict morality is taught, and the Church has used its means and facilities liberally to teach its youth the necessity for moral cleanliness and the blessings of happy marriage.” (What of the Mormons? pamphlet, 1982, p. 11.) (Gordon B. Hinckley, *Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1997], 5.)

-“Sexual intimacy is not only a symbolic union between a man and a woman—the uniting of their very souls—but it is also symbolic of a union between mortals and deity, between otherwise ordinary and fallible humans uniting for a rare and special moment with God himself and all the powers by which he gives life in this wide universe of ours. . . . And I submit to you that you will never be more like God at any other time in this life than when you are expressing that particular power. Of all the titles he has chosen for himself, Father is the one he declares, and Creation is his

watchword—especially human creation, creation in his image. . . . Human life—that is the greatest of God’s powers, the most mysterious and magnificent chemistry of it all—and you and I have been given it, but under the most serious and sacred of restrictions. You and I who can make neither mountain nor moonlight, not one raindrop nor a single rose—yet we have this greater gift in an absolutely unlimited way. And the only control placed on us is self-control—self-control born of respect for the divine sacramental power it is.” (Jeffrey Holland *Of Souls, Symbols and Sacraments*)

“In offering these suggestions let it be understood that I have no intent to minimize the seriousness of the sexual sins or other transgressions but merely to hold out hope to the transgressor, so that men and women of sin may strive with all their power to overcome their errors, wash themselves “in the blood of the Lamb” and be purged and purified, and thus be able to return to their Maker. Those involved must not relax because of the possibility of forgiveness. Let me repeat that it is a serious and solemn matter when people permit themselves to get into sexual sins, of which adultery is only one of the more serious ones.” (Spencer W. Kimball, *Miracle of Forgiveness* p. 351)

Spencer W Kimbal Clarifies a Statement by Joseph Smith on Unrepentant Adulterers Not Being Saved

-“I was present with several of the Twelve, and gave an address tending to do away with every evil, and exhorting them to practice virtue and holiness before the Lord; told them that the Church had not received any permission from me to commit fornication, adultery, or any corrupt action; but my every word and action has been to the contrary. If a man commit adultery, he cannot receive the celestial kingdom of God. Even if he is saved in any kingdom, it cannot be the celestial kingdom. ...I condemned such actions in toto, and warned the people present against committing such evils; for it will surely bring a curse upon any person who commits such deeds.” (HC 6:81)

-“Going back to the Prophet’s original statement, had he inserted in it the three words I believe it implies ‘and remains unrepentant,’ this statement would fit perfectly in the program as given in the numerous scriptures, many of which came through the Prophet himself (Miracle of Forgiveness 350).

Scriptures on the Seriousness of Chastity

-Alma 39:3-7 **add**

-“repent and forsake your sins, and go no more after the lusts of your eyes, but cross yourself in all these things; for except ye do this ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Oh, remember, and take it upon you, and cross yourself in these things.” (Alma 39:9)

Elder Packer “Message to Young Men”: Masterbation is Innappropriate, can lead to Guilt & Homosexuality

October 2, 1976 at Priesthood session.

I can’t find this in the church archives of conference talks but in the very session you have a talk from Marion G Romney where he references the talk by Brother Packer saying “I have enjoyed very much the fine talks of Brother Packer...” yet the Packer talk is not there.

It is archived here: [To Young Men Only To Young Men Only \(archive.org\)](#)

And the sermon is on YouTube

[\(403\) Message to Young Men - YouTube](#)

It is apparently also printed in a 1980 pamphlet titled “To Young Men Only” by Packer. The pamphlet is archived here: [To Young Men Only To Young Men Only \(archive.org\)](#)

Full text:

There are present in this priesthood session only brethren. I approach a subject that could not appropriately be discussed if there were others present. I have prayed fervently for inspiration as I speak to young men of Aaronic Priesthood age: to young men only.

I wish to discuss a subject that fathers should discuss with their sons. Because some young men do not have fathers and because some fathers (and some bishops) do not know how to proceed, I approach a very personal subject, one that is important to every young man.

You have been given a mortal body with which to experience earth life. Through it you will be tested. Your body is the instrument of your mind and the foundation of your character. It has within it powers which, if properly used, will contribute greatly to your exaltation. If you use this gift worthily, it will serve you throughout all eternity.

Never be ashamed of your body. No two are just alike. Some young men worry because they think their body is not well proportioned. They think they are too short or too tall or too stout or too thin or too something else. Physical proportions need have little to do with success, particularly spiritual success. Be grateful for your body.

Strive to keep it healthy through proper nourishment, rest, and exercise. Develop your body to full and useful capacity. Develop manly stamina and control. Take nothing into your body that would harm it. Do not use tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other harmful substance.

A young man should learn to rule his body. Like his temper, he should keep it always under complete control. That sometimes is not easy to do.

Within your body you have the power of creation. You will one day find a mate and desire greatly to express fully your love with her. The righteous expression of this physical love in marriage is approved of the Lord. She then may conceive and give birth to a boy or a girl, a baby of whom you will be the father.

This is a very sacred power. The Lord has commanded that you use it only with one to whom you are legally and lawfully wedded. He has decreed serious penalties indeed for the misuse of it.

This power begins early in life, with some when you are hardly in your teens. This has a purpose, for with this power come the attributes of manhood. You notice changes in your stature and in your voice; a beard and other masculine characteristics become part of your nature.

Your feelings also change. This physical power will influence you emotionally and spiritually as well. It begins to shape and fit you to look, and feel, and to be what you need to be as a father. Ambition, courage, physical and emotional and spiritual strength become part of you because you are a man. You become very interested in young women—and want to be with them. This is as it should be.

This power of creation affects your life several years before you should express it fully. You must always guard the power with manly wisdom. You must wait until the time of your marriage to use it.

During that waiting, what do you do with these desires? My boy, you are to control them. You are forbidden to use them now in order that you may use them with worthiness and virtue and fulness of joy at the proper time in life.

I wish to explain something that will help you understand your young manhood and help you develop self-control. When this power begins to form, it might be likened to having a little factory in your body, one designed to produce the product that can generate life.

This little factory moves quietly into operation as a normal and expected pattern of growth and begins to produce the life-giving substance. It will do so perhaps as long as you live. It works very slowly. That is the way it should be. For the most part, unless you tamper with it, you will hardly be aware that it is working at all. As you move closer to manhood, this little factory will sometimes produce an oversupply of this substance. The Lord has provided a way for that to be released. It will happen without any help or without any resistance from you. Perhaps, one night you will have a dream. In the course of it the release valve that controls the factory will open and release all that is excess.

The factory and automatic release work on their own schedule. The Lord intended it to be that way. It is to regulate itself. This will not happen very often. You may go a longer period of time, and there will be no need for this to occur. When it does, you should not feel guilty. It is the nature of young manhood and is part of becoming a man. There is, however, something you should not do. Sometimes a young man does not understand. Perhaps he is encouraged by unwise or unworthy companions to tamper with that factory. He might fondle himself and open that release valve. This you should not do, for if you do that, the little factory will speed up. You will then be tempted again and again to release it. You can quickly be subjected to a habit, one that is not worthy, one that will leave you feeling depressed and feeling guilty. Resist that temptation. Do not be guilty of tampering or playing with this sacred power of creation. Keep it in reserve for the time when it can be righteously employed.

One of you, perhaps, has not fully understood until now. Perhaps your father did not talk to you. You may already have been guilty of tampering with these powers. You may even have developed a habit. What do you do then?

First, I want you to know this. If you are struggling with this temptation and perhaps you have not quite been able to resist, the Lord still loves you. It is not anything so wicked nor is it a transgression so great that the Lord would reject you because of it, but it can quickly lead to that

kind of transgression. It is not pleasing to the Lord, nor is it pleasing to you. It does not make you feel worthy or clean.

There are ways to conquer such a habit. First of all, you must leave that factory alone long enough for it to slow down. Resisting is not easy. It will take weeks, even months. But you can get the little factory slowed back to where it should be.

I have other suggestions. The power to prevent such habits or to break them rests in your mind, not in your body. Don't let that physical part of you take charge. Stay in control. Condition your body to do the will of your mind. To do this you must keep your mind on worthy thoughts. Divert your thoughts from things that lead you into mischief. Vigorous physical exercise helps young men in many ways. You are most vulnerable when you are idle or when you are discouraged. This is the time to be on guard.

I know a way to keep your thoughts worthy. It has helped me, and I explained it on one occasion in a general conference talk. Let me repeat it for you.

Probably the greatest challenge to people of any age, particularly young people, and the most difficult thing you will face in mortal life is to learn to control your thoughts. As a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7.) One who can control his thoughts has conquered himself.

When I was about ten years old, we lived in a home surrounded by an orchard. There never seemed to be enough water for the trees. The ditches, always fresh-plowed in the spring, would soon be filled with weeds. One day, in charge of the irrigating turn, I found myself in trouble. As the water moved down the rows choked with weeds, it would flood in every direction. I raced through the puddles trying to build up the bank. As soon as I had one break patched up, there would be another.

A neighbor came through the orchard. He watched for a moment and then with a few vigorous strokes of the shovel he cleared the ditch bottom and allowed the water to course through the channel he had made.

"If you want the water to stay in its course, you'll have to make a place for it to go," he said.

I have come to know that thoughts, like water, will stay on course if we make a place for them to go. Otherwise, our thoughts follow the course of least resistance, always seeking the lower levels.

I had been told a hundred times or more as I grew up, that thoughts must be controlled, but no one told me how. I want to tell you young people about one way you can learn to control your thoughts, and it has to do with music.

The mind is like a stage. Except when we are asleep, the curtain is always up. There is always some act being performed on that stage. It may be a comedy, a tragedy, interesting or dull, good or bad; but always there is some act playing on the stage of the mind.

Have you noticed that without any real intent on your part, in the middle of almost any performance, a shady little thought may creep in from the wings and attract your attention? These delinquent thoughts will try to upstage everybody. If you permit them to go on, all thoughts of any virtue will leave the stage. You will be left, because you consented to it, to the influence of unrighteous thoughts.

If you yield to them, they will enact for you on the stage of your mind anything to the limits of your toleration. They may enact a theme of bitterness, jealousy, or hatred. It may be vulgar, immoral, even depraved. When they have the stage, if you let them, they will devise the most clever persuasions to hold your attention. They can make it interesting all right, even convince you that it is innocent—for they are but thoughts.

What do you do at a time like that, when the stage of your mind is commandeered by the imps of unclean thinking, whether they be the gray ones that seem almost clean or the filthy ones which leave no room for doubt? If you can control your thoughts, you can overcome habits, even degrading personal habits. If you can learn to master them, you will have a happy life.

This is what I would teach you. Choose from among the sacred music of the Church a favorite hymn, one with words that are uplifting and music that is reverent, one that makes you feel something akin to inspiration. Go over it in your mind carefully. Memorize it. Even though you have had no musical training, you can think through a hymn.

Now, use this hymn as the place for your thoughts to go. Make it your emergency channel. Whenever you find these shady actors have slipped from the sidelines of your thinking onto the stage of your mind, put on this record, as it were. As the music begins and as the words form in your thoughts, the unworthy ones will slip shamefully away. It will change the whole mood on the stage of your mind. Because it is uplifting and clean, the baser thoughts will disappear. For while virtue, by choice, will not associate with filth, evil cannot tolerate the presence of light.

In due time you will find yourself, on occasion, humming the music inwardly. As you retrace your thoughts, you discover some influence from the world about you encouraged an unworthy thought to move on stage in your mind, and the music almost automatically began.

Once you learn to clear the stage of your mind of unworthy thoughts, keep it busy with learning worthwhile things. Change your environment so that you have things about you that will inspire good and uplifting thoughts. Keep busy with things that are righteous. Another thing will help both to prevent and to overcome such habits. At times of special temptation skip a meal or two. We call that fasting, you know. It has a powerful effect upon you physically. It diverts some of that physical energy to more ordinary needs. It tempers desire and reduces the temptation. Fasting will help you greatly.

In the scriptures, fasting and prayer are generally mentioned together. Prayer is a powerful instrument to bless young men. If a missionary, for instance, indulges in these unworthy practices, the Spirit of the Lord will leave him. When he is prayerful and will fast, the Spirit of the Lord sustains him. He soon develops a manly restraint and worthiness.

Resist those temptations. Do not tamper with your body. If you have already, cease to do it—now. Put it away and overcome it. The signal of worthy manhood is self-control.

This power is ordained for the begetting of life and as a binding tie in the marriage covenant. It is not to be misused. It is not to be used prematurely. It is to be known between husband and wife and in no other way. If you misuse it, you will be sorry.

Now a warning! I am hesitant to even mention it, for it is not pleasant. It must be labeled as major transgression. But I will speak plainly.

There are some circumstances in which young men may be tempted to handle one another, to have contact with one another physically in unusual ways. Latter-day Saint young men are not to do this.

Sometimes this begins in a moment of idle foolishness, when boys are just playing around. But it is not foolishness. It is remarkably dangerous. Such practices, however tempting, are perversion. When a young man is finding his way into manhood, such experiences can misdirect his normal desires and pervert him not only physically but emotionally and spiritually as well.

It was intended that we use this power only with our partner in marriage. I repeat, very plainly, physical mischief with another man is forbidden. It is forbidden by the Lord.

There are some men who entice young men to join them in these immoral acts. If you are ever approached to participate in anything like that, it is time to vigorously resist.

While I was in a mission on one occasion, a missionary said he had something to confess. I was very worried because he just could not get himself to tell me what he had done.

After patient encouragement he finally blurted out, "I hit my companion."

“Oh, is that all,” I said in great relief.

“But I floored him,” he said.

After learning a little more, my response was “Well, thanks. Somebody had to do it, and it wouldn’t be well for a General Authority to solve the problem that way.”

I am not recommending that course to you, but I am not omitting it.

You must protect yourself.

There is a falsehood that some are born with an attraction to their own kind, with nothing they can do about it. They are just “that

way” and can only yield to those desires. That is a malicious and destructive lie. While it is a convincing idea to some, it is of the devil.

No one is locked into that kind of life. From our premortal life we were directed into a physical body. There is no mismatching of bodies and spirits. Boys are to become men—masculine, manly men—ultimately to become husbands and fathers. No one is predestined to a perverted use of these powers.

Even those who have been drawn into wicked practices and are bound by almost unyielding habits can escape. If one of you seems trapped in that, escape. Go to your father or bishop, please. Your parents, your bishop, the servants of the Lord, the angels of heaven and the Lord himself will help redeem you from it.

Young Latter-day Saint men, do not tamper with these powers, neither with yourself alone nor with one of your own kind. Never let anyone handle you or touch those very personal parts of your body which are an essential link in the ongoing of creation.

Many of the world would, I am sure, be amused by this counsel. Let them be amused. They live by another standard, a lower one. We live by the Lord’s standard and continue to teach it.

It is normal and proper for a young man to become increasingly interested in young women, to begin to date, eventually to pair up. We encourage that, but be careful. Keep your relationships with young women pure and chaste. Reserve those life-giving powers for marriage. Generally a young man is physically developed for marriage long before he is emotionally or spiritually or materially qualified for it. In due time, when all things are in balance, you will be ready. After you have kept yourself in physical control, after you are sufficiently mature emotionally and spiritually and have some resources materially, that is the time for marriage.

Then you can enter into the new and everlasting covenant. You and your sweetheart will be sealed together for time and for all eternity.

These sacred life-giving powers will then be released for your use.

They will become a binding tie in your marriage. Through them you will become a father.

But for now, you prepare and follow the instruction in the scripture:
“Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.” (D&C 133:5.)

God bless you, our young brethren, as you strive to be clean. In doing so, you will please the Lord and his prophet, of whom I bear witness, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Forgiveness for Sexual Sin: Purity Through Christ

We see the savior forgiving the woman taken in adultery, so we know that forgiveness for this type of sin does exist, however difficult. First there is the difficulty of obtaining the forgiveness. But also there is the difficulty of even wanting it, and that is where most people trip up: they become hardened in their hearts and don't want to try to approach God, preferring their godless lifestyles instead, thinking that wickedness will bring them happiness, ignoring the impending judgement day.

I was asked some time ago while a missionary in Georgia how forgiveness for sexual sin works. I was asked “if a person who lost their virginity would have it back when they repent?” Here is an attempt at an answer to that question:

I told you that being baptized (and repenting after baptism if the sexual transgression continues), does clean a person from the effects of sin, entirely.

... "The Miracle of Forgiveness" by Spencer W Kimball. I highly recommend that book... read [also] The Book of Mormon [to learn] that Jesus Christ has the power to save

I now want to give you a few more thoughts on the doctrine of purity through Christ:

-It's not so much about your track record as it is about what track you are on. Of course as we will see later in this message, one must build the Kingdom of God.

-It's not so much about who you were as who you are.

-For all intents and purposes, yes, the virginity comes back with repentance.

-The past is not erased, a person still had sex, but the consequences of it are gone. Some say repentance is like pulling nails out of a board but the holes from the nails remain in the board; the prophets have said that analogy is false doctrine. The correct doctrine is that when you repent the nails aren't pulled out of the board, but a new board is given you. In other words, you are healed entirely.

-The scriptures speak about virgins being blessed. A person who used to be sexually active outside of marriage who then repents, is one of the virgins referred to in the scriptures. In scriptural language, a person who lost their virginity and repents is become a virgin again.

-Repentance isn't about going back to innocence, it's about moving forward to power. The repented person has both innocence, and power. The child has only innocence, no power. A person does not need to sin to have power, but the sinner who repents does gain power. Interestingly, another word for "virtue" is "power". The woman who touched the robe of Jesus heard him say "virtue has gone out of me." In other words, power had gone out of him and into her, healing her.

-A persons past sins do not make them a second class citizen in the kingdom of God. Paul and Alma the younger are good examples of this.

-You might wonder, "how could a person who has done serious sins become a pure perfect god, like Jesus or Heavenly Father? (or Heavenly Mother)?" The answer is that it doesn't matter if

you did sins, it matters that you became pure and powerful. Being a God is about being pure and powerful, not about how many times you stubbed your toe on the path to perfection. Just stay on the path, and get back on when you slip off. Then fight like hell to get to heaven.

Joseph Smith said of himself, that he was a rough stone rolling down a hill, getting the rough edges chipped off here and there. The smooth stone is what a God is in the analogy. When you are a smooth stone, you can tell your children "I am perfect. I am always perfect." Our job in the plan of salvation is to repent and serve God. If we do that job, we become like God in every way. Jesus never sinned, but he was more intelligent than us. We don't have to "never sin" to become a God. We just have to do the best we can with the amount of intelligence we have. In other words, to get salvation (and exaltation), the person must "do the best he / she can". "Doing the best you can" means different things for different people. For Jesus, that man of supreme intelligence, "doing his best" meant never sinning. For us, "doing the best we can" means sinning as little as possible, and "always remembering [Christ]", like the sacrament prayer says, and being willing to "take upon [us] the name of Christ", like the sacrament prayer says. Notice it says "be willing" to do that; at this time, our name is not "Christ", but in a future time, we will be recognized as "Christ[s]", because we will have advanced to his stature. Jesus' best is different from our best, but Jesus did his best so he is saved and exalted, now we must do our best so we can also be saved and exalted! Joseph Smith said we should "make our calling and election sure", this means, don't stop after temple, keep fighting for holiness until you are like God himself, and until a voice from the heavens promises you eternal life. Side note: calling and election made sure also deals with more temple ordinances like "the washing of the feet" in the temple, but you don't need to worry about that, just do your best. I will attach a document of LDS quotes which I have compiled about the calling and election made sure at the end of this letter in case this subject interests you for further study (see ref 7). The point I'm trying to make with this "calling and election made sure" stuff is that when we say "do our best", it's a serious thing, not easily obtained. Of course it involves repentance throughout life.

I also want to caution you against the mindset of thinking exaltation (becoming like God) is out of reach, because doing our best is too hard. No, if it's too hard, then it's beyond "your best", and it's not required for you. But recall President Eyrings words, "I can't be a perfect servant every hour, but I can try to give more effort than I thought I could." (see ref. 1 at end of this email.) Now recall these comforting words of Elder Bruce R. McConkie: he taught that if a person is in good standings with the church, and active in the church, along with the other active saints, for all intents and purposes, their calling and election is made sure. If they die while on that path of righteous activity in the church, they will be exalted (become Gods). For more on the topic of exaltation, I refer you to an article I wrote with this very question in mind, of how a person with a past of heavy sins could become a pure God, see reference 3 for that link. For another related article on exaltation I compiled which is very beautiful also, see reference 8. Lastly, to show that a person must serve God, I state this citation of Joseph Smith: "If a man gets a fullness of the priesthood of God he has to get it in the same way that Jesus Christ obtained it, and that was by keeping all the commandments and obeying all the ordinances of the house of the Lord." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.308) Now as you may know, getting the fullness of the priesthood applies to women as well. However Joseph isn't saying here that we can't ever make a mistake, he is saying that we must be obedient. Interestingly, repentance is one of the laws which we are instructed to obey. Further, we read this quote with a better understanding that becoming a God is not to be taken lightly. Apparently, becoming a God is so difficult that it requires practice and work even beyond death, that we can't attain it in this life (Joseph Smith taught this), yet some who dwelt on this earth like Abraham have already become Gods ("Abraham received all things, whatsoever he received, by revelation and commandment, by my word, saith the Lord, and hath entered into his exaltation and sitteth upon his throne." D&C 132:29; "...they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods." D&C 132:37).

-I would not be surprised to hear of Gods in the universe (there is more than one God, Heavenly Father has a Father, etc., see reference 5, and recall the scripture that says "there are lords many and gods many, but to us there is 1 lord and 1 god" 1 Corinthians 8:5), I would not be surprised if there are Gods in the universe whom had a past of serious sins. However! And this is important: They must know what it's like to be righteous. Salvation isn't an easy or cheap experience. One cannot become exalted without sacrificing their all on the altar of righteousness. A God must have the credentials of knowing the pain of righteousness. He may obtain those credentials later rather than sooner, but have them he must. Salvation is about what Jesus did for you, but exaltation is about what you do for others. We cannot procrastinate the day of our repentance, and repentance includes both stopping bad things, and starting good things. A fence sitter who claims to like Jesus will never become a God.

-Preach the gospel with your might all your days, and you'll be saved. ... This doesn't mean that a person needs to go on a mission to get forgiveness, or that it's a long process; it does mean that preaching the gospel helps the petitioning candidate to qualify for the blessing of forgiveness. It proves to God that the candidate is serious about their new commitment to take up their cross and follow the Master, come hell or high water.

references:

1. https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2011/10/preparation-in-the-priesthood-i-need-your-help?lang=eng&_r=1

2. "the probationary test of mortality" by Elder Bruce R McConkie, see <http://www.cometozarahemla.org/mosiah/the-path-to-perfection.html>

3. ***an article I wrote about exaltation with this very question in mind, of how a person with a past of heavy sins could become a pure God:

<https://richardsonstudies.wordpress.com/category/exaltation-theory/>

4. Joseph Smith a rough stone rolling as quoted by Pres. Hinckley: <https://www.lds.org/new-era/2005/05/words-of-the-prophet-praise-to-the-man?lang=eng>

5. the LDS quotes about how Heavenly Father has a Father: President Joseph Fielding Smith said, “**Our Father in Heaven, according to the Prophet, had a Father**, and since there has been a condition of this kind **through all eternity, each Father had a Father.**” (Doctrines of Salvation, Bookcraft, 1955, vol 2, pg 47) (This is cited here as well in a good theoretical explanation of astronomy, where God lives in the universe etc, called "The Kolob Theorem" ; see http://www.rogerknecht.com/uploads/2011/12/The_Kolob_Theorem.pdf). Brigham Young explained that “there **never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds and when men were not passing through the same ordeals that we are now passing through.**” (*Deseret News*, 16 Nov. 1859, page 290) see also **Revelations 1:6.**

6. "successful marriages and families" that byu class book https://www.amazon.com/Successful-Marriages-Families-Hawkins/dp/0842528032/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1491880147&sr=8-1&keywords=successful+marriages+and+families by the same author same style etc nice book "strengthening our families: in depth look at the family proclamation"

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7. document I compiled of LDS quotes on calling and election made sure:

<https://richardsonstudies.wordpress.com/category/the-church-of-the-firstborn/>

8. the 2nd exaltation article:

<https://richardsonstudies.wordpress.com/category/exaltation-logic-analysis-by-nate-richardson/>

Lust Not: 13 Steps to Disarming the Devil's Lies about Sex

We will here see how important the body is now and forever, and how the Devil warps this truth to deceive us. The Doctrinal background for and suggested application in living with virtue in daily life. Specifically, how to resist lust with doctrine and skill.

I pondered over what it means to not look upon a woman to lust after her, as the scripture denounces. Here are some guidelines for when a person is tempted to think sexually about a female inappropriately (aka a woman whom is not his wife, or overly sexualizing his wife), as well as the why behind it:

1. Don't stare at her; this is a dangerous situation and the more you look, the more you lust. It's in our biology, so be aware of your biology, and resist the natural man. You are not an animal, you need not feast like a predator. The woman is not an animal either, although her debased and purely sexual/reproductive appearance could convince you otherwise. The spiritually unlearned woman may focus her self-presentation on body rather than charm of continence. They overly emphasize the one, having no faith in the other, thinking themselves to be of no charm, of no value other than their body. Animals go around thinking about sex, and presenting themselves for sex, rating each other on sexual scales. It should not be so with humans. Everything religion has been trying to say from the beginning of time is that we are NOT animals. Not even close!

Sexuality is a core part of humanity, but we often get mixed up in treating it like the core rather than a core. When you meet someone, what's the first thing you want them to think of you? Is it "wow I would love nothing more than to have sex with this person." Or is it "wow this person is happy, and they are kind to me, and they are clean, and gentle, and wise in their reservation!" And for those seeking a relationship, their presentation ought to suggest the following, "wow this person is one that I could enjoy spending much time with because her words show her personality to be enchanting!" rather than "wow I want a relationship with this person because it means i might be able to have sex with them eventually."

No, if you base your relationship on sex, it's going to break in half sooner or later, and usually sooner than later. So don't get mixed up in putting your sexual foot forward. Put your best foot forward, and however physically attractive you may be, your best foot is your spiritual one, and the one that shows your commitment to healing the human race from every ailment. Often to express one's self takes more than a glance of the eye. We should not express our lack of patience by foisting ourselves upon others with the cheap shot of putting the sexual foot forward. Every human has a desire for sex. But not every human has a desire for beauty, for creativity, for ingenuity, for serving others. The way you dress sends a signal, narrowing down the types of candidates whom will approach you for friendship.

Dressing attractively doesn't mean showing off your curves; Brigham Young taught that the women should not wear such tight dresses, such being repulsive. Perhaps the reason President Young found tight dresses repulsive was not that they weren't physically/sexually appealing, but because it sells short the rest of the person. It auctions off something so marvelous for such a low price. Men with charms and laughs can use deception and in-transitivity to sweep a good, unsuspecting woman off of her feet. The female must not encourage the vain circus tricks of the unethical man by waving "easy access, you're already half way there" in front of his face. No, the mature woman holds her body with reserve, and with righteous protective zeal. She will not give it to just anyone. She will not advertise the half of it, or more, in her casual business of the day. Rather, she will be modest, very modest, and reserve the hidden treasure of her body for one whom seeks her whole soul, and not just her body. She wants the guarantee that the man will be committed to her throughout life and beyond, not the one that comes for the popcorn only to get up and look for another show. No, she knows that she is worth a lot more than popcorn. She better ascertains long term relationships via insisting that the mind and spirit are involved, not just the flesh.

2. recognize that she is beautiful, and

3. pray for her wellbeing. Then

4. consider the blessings of Zion, and that God has all blessings for his Saints in appropriate all-fulfilling channels, and

5. recall that Zion is the only place of eternal sexual fulfillment, and the best shot at sexual fulfillment in this life as well. To ensure the reader understands “eternal sexual fulfillment”, which statement brings us to worlds far past our own present state, I will state the obvious, which is written in the most introductory text of my faith: namely that the body will rise from the grave, and be reunited with the spirit! Heaven is a place where people have bodies, live in families, and families can’t happen without sex. Worlds without end, you’ll never find such a creation. This is the genius of the restored truth of the latter days: that the body is central to the eternal plan of God, and is not merely to be disposed of after mortal death!

Death of body is a resting, not a permanence! Are Christians clear about this? Most of them are not! Are Latter-day Saint Christians clear about this? More clear than staring you in the face, yes! The universe is governed by laws which even God himself cannot break. The only reason a god is a god is because he and she have conformed to the laws of the universe. One of the laws of the universe is that we need bodies and the uniting thereof with a spouse to have full joy. Does full joy end after this life? No! And of course, there are many gods, though only 1 of them rules over us. Our God is our father. No being whom is not a child of God is ruled by God. All beings are ruled over by their celestial parent, worlds without end, forever and ever. To avoid the risk of saying something too sacred here, we will merely recall the words of Joseph Smith, that this “one eternal round”. Where did Gods begin? It’s one eternal round. Everyone has a parent... it’s a cycle, worlds without end, and without beginning. The mortal does not comprehend the “no beginning”, and alas I say it no better comprehends the “no end.” The average person has no clue about their true nature, for they have no clue about the nature of God. God has always existed, and we as his children have likewise always existed. God will always exist, and so will we. Even the devils of hell must go on an on forever, and have been forever going on. God fathered us in promoting

our state, this does not suggest that we lived not before. Thus it is, we compare to understand, with the biological birth. That person did exist before it got a physical body, but the mortal parents heaped upon it a grand promotion: the body! Likewise, individual personal intelligences named you and me existed before God organized it into greater intelligence. The parent does such a vast favor for the child, that it is considered that the parent “created” the child. Indeed, for all intents and purposes of our word “created”, so he did!

6. confess the boundaries of interpersonal relationships in Zion,

7. know that person is your sister, with great potential and kindness, and act only in ways that will promote her lasting happiness in Zion

8. recall that in the resurrection our cups will run over, and we will hunger not; even the best of circumstances here in mortality to not begin to compare with the circumstances in heaven, and that is true in every aspect, thus the sexual aspect is included. Is it not written that we have earthly bodies here, but shall have heavenly bodies there? Shall we not transform from terrestrial to celestial? Yes, we shall. And all the pleasantries that come with it shall be ours, provided we continue faithful. Well hath the prophet Joseph Smith taught, that all your losses will be made up to you in the resurrection, provided that you continue faithful.

9. recall that in the resurrection the disabilities & physical imperfections of this life will vanish, and

10. recall that in the resurrection people will respect each other, and do this by not immodestly tempt each other in overbearing and hurtful ways; indeed, the man of heaven has power given him to not be blown about by every temptation; he sees them for what they are, and he is blessed with a habitation where such temptations do not exist. When he must make errands to fallen worlds, he will use his power to not be affected by the crumbs on the floor there, for he knows of the divine feast in the worlds

above! How attractive is the mere crust when you know of the pastry! Not at all!

11. talk to the person about who they are so you can see them for more than their body, and perhaps win their soul, bringing them to Zion, where they can learn how to properly use their bodies to capitalize on their joy. If they are flirtatious however, this can be more detrimental than beneficial, and politely wish them well, and be on your way, building the kingdom of God wherever and however you can.

You must not allow yourself to lose the spirit, and such can happen if we engage in flirtation with unruly females, and for those married, they lose the spirit if they flirt with any female other than their spouse. Beware the flirtatious woman, she ropes you in to flirting back before you know it. If you find yourself in an inappropriate flirtatious situation, be you married or single, follow the example of Joseph the prophet in Egypt, and run away for God's sake! If you settle for the unruly woman, you won't know the deep joy of the woman of Christ, with whom you can share the spirit of Christ, and gain eternal life together in the Kingdom of God, becoming Gods yourselves united there forever in creation and pleasure.

12. think about Jesus Christ, and look for people who you can serve at that time. An old friend to call, a person present to minister to with your conversation whom is cast down because of their poverty or lack of social skills, etc.

13. be sorry for the girl of immodesty as she is living beneath her privileges, and could be much happier with the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost. Indeed, immodest use of one's body is not holy, but is profane. The definition of holy means sacred or guarded and hidden, the definition of profane is in the open, broadcast, and public. The body is not to be profane, but is to be holy. The Lord goes so far as to call our bodies "temples", the very center point of holiness. Now how can you expect to have the Holy Ghost with you if your actions are now holy? It cannot be done, worlds without end, it shall never be.

Conformity to decency is the only way to qualify for the presence of Deity, as manifest in the Holy Ghost's presence in one's life.

Are these things true? Yes, they are true. Though you may not confess them to your neighbor, you have felt in your heart that this is salvation through the Lord God Jesus Christ. You may feel these standards are beyond your reach, like Peter whom drown in the sea after being called upon to walk on water. In this we remember the words of the Master, "oh ye of little faith. Wherefore did ye doubt?" Let Christ pull you from the water today, but when he asks you again to walk on water, have a little faith! Behold, Christ walketh on the water! And lo, He saith to us, "Come! Follow me!" Come, feast, and become a God! This is your destiny. This is who you were born to be! Put away your confusion, your wanderings and senseless debate. Feed at the hand of the Creator of the Earth whom is Jesus Christ, and hearken to his precepts! There is no other way to fully understand the design than by learning from the designer. No way to fully become a creator, then to learn from the Creator. He is Jesus Christ. Fall to your knees, and there He will reveal Himself to you. Then you will know, not just believe. Then you cannot deny the feelings he then puts in your heart, and you will be constrained to say "surely this is the Lord, surely this is the answer to all my questions, and the path to joy here, and eternal bliss hereafter!

Do's and Don'ts of Pre-Marital Dating Touch: Emotional Before Passionate Intimacy

Jason Carroll again enlightens us on dating touch. There exists a behavioral chastity line. In dating we wonder, "what is the chastity line? The line when we are in trouble? The line where I must go talk to my bishop if we cross? What's the most we can

get away with when it comes to touching etc. before marriage?” This question which many have is fundamentally immature, but, for the sake of the 12-year old’s in the audience, and those who behave or think like 12-year old’s, we will address it. We must consider behavioral chastity, sexual purity, and sexual wholeness. The answers to this question are as follows:

We must treat each other with respect, not as lust items. God has commanded sexual intimacy be reserved for marriage, and sexual/passionate intimacy is incomplete without emotional and affectionate intimacy. Before marriage, we don’t do passionate kissing, lie on top of another person, or touch private parts of the body with or without clothing. Don’t arouse those sexual emotions in your own body. Don’t approach the edge of the cliff, just stay where you should be. Do things in their proper order and you will be safe. Yes, vulnerability is needed for a close relationship, but there is a healthy type of vulnerability, and an unhealthy type. These are principles shown in the “For the Strength of Youth, Sexual Purity”. The manual says “youth”, but that is because these things are to teach us while young the correct principles for how to act before married.

The opposite of what we hope for dating young people was expressed by one young woman. When asked how she knows if a young man likes her, she replied “if he will talk to me after sex.” Well do the scriptures say that in the last days, things will be upside down. Sexual intimacy is, according to God’s law, to be reserved only for a legally married man and woman who’ve made an at least lifelong commitment to each other. Sexual union symbolizes union in every other part of your life. It’s the most sacred symbol we have from God. Using this symbol when other parts of our lives are not aligned is debauchery, and belittles the human being down to a mere tool, un-respected, unwanted for who they are in their entirety, and void of the attitude of responsibility toward the natural consequence of sexual intimacy, namely the creation and rearing of a child whom is the spitting image of the 2 parents combined. I can’t think of a more powerful symbol from God to show us that children are both a prize and a responsibility belonging to its 2 biological parents. For more on this topic, see the discourse “Of Souls Symbols & Sacraments” by Jeffrey R Holland.

Emotional Before Passionate Intimacy:

Jason Carroll further explains that counterfeit intimacy is sexual/passionate intimacy before emotional and affectionate intimacy. It is when we put the cart before the horse and are overly physically romantic before even being emotionally intimate, getting to know one another extensively, etc.

Emotional intimacy means security, trust, safety, being open with each other, understanding each other on a deep level.

Affectionate intimacy is any form of physical touch that shows connection which does not arouse the sexual response of our body and spirit. Passionate intimacy involves any form of physical touch that communicates love and passion that does arouse sexual response. Many 17-year old's have no concept of the difference between an affectionate kiss, and a passionate kiss!

PART 2: DATING & MARRIAGE

Introduction

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“While salvation is an individual matter, exaltation is a family matter.” -Russel M Nelson

“One of the main problems in families today is that we spend less and less time together. ... Time together is precious time—time needed to talk, to listen, to encourage, and to show how to do things.” - President James E Faust

“The first marriage performed was the marriage of two immortal beings.” (Ezra Taft Benson, *So Shall Ye Reap*, p. 117-118)

We might as well talk about some of the most pressing issues of our time. Let us identify the errors of feminism, and homosexuality. We highlight the natural brotherhood of men, and can illustrate why romance is only necessary between male and female. With the legalization of homosexual marriage in the US in 2015, the time could not be better to set the record straight on the Lord’s feelings related to these issues. Let us reenthroned women and man in their proper roles, and hold up the traditional family as the holy and eternal standard, upon which civilizations rise or fall. Let us learn the plan of salvation’s impact on families as the central feature of society.



Falsehood of Brain Development & Delayed Marriage

There is a rumor going around which I often hear among my students that a person should delay marriage until around age 30, or at least the mid 20's, due to 'brain development'. Should it also be delayed until financial development? Higher education

development? Wrinkle development? Nature has endowed us with a short window to fulfill God's commandment to multiply and replenish the earth. Today the adversary has many persuaded to forestall marriage and childbearing until the latter end of that fertility window! The wise know that when people marry, they don't marry perfection. They grow together, build together, discover together, and pull each other up as they go higher than they ever could have risen going that track alone.

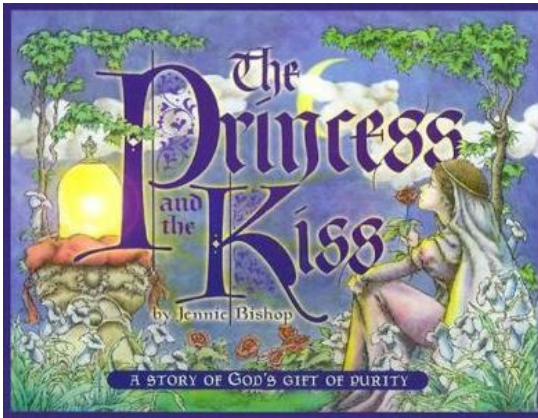
Of course along with these fictitious goals of delayed family comes the casual approach to dating and sexuality. How ironic, that in the past when people were reserved they married young, and today when people are liberal they marry late. They have spoiled the natural joys of life. They have turned society upside down.

The false claim is made that people married young due to excitement for otherwise forbidden sexuality. I reply by this: it is natural to desire a partner, and to give oneself to them. It is unnatural to forbid to marry. God gave us the law of chastity, and he gave us feelings toward reproduction at the onset of puberty. It stands to reason then that it is the will of God that we obey all of his laws, and we marry at a young age. The security of this is fragile unless done within religious community where both parties prize service to God above their own whims. God is not an old Scrooge, and does not want us to live a celibate life, or even half of a celibate life. Live life to the fullest and embrace humanity, embrace marriage, and do not be deterred by the endless excuses of modern pseudosophistication calling for a forever delayed marriage.

It doesn't take ages upon ages for the character of a person to develop. Well did Ayn Rand teach in one of her books, that a person who is honest doesn't need much of an introduction. Similarly, it doesn't take ages of dating in order to determine whether a person is right for marriage. If your courtship is prolonged, it is likely due to trying to keep something alive

which isn't the best idea, which you knew a long time ago. Similarly, a person need not wait until a late age decades past puberty before they consider themselves or others of sufficient age to make important decisions. Life is short, and God knows that we have it in us to make these important decisions.

Saving the 1st Kiss for Marriage: Overview of “The Princess & The Kiss: A Story of God’s Gift of Purity” Storybook by Jennie Bishop



Introduction: Culture Shock

Saving the first kiss for marriage is completely lost in today's society, where people think that any type of relation is merely a sport to be played with any temporary volunteer. Some even scoff at the idea of saving the first kiss for marriage, and scoff at the idea of saving anything for marriage, and scoff at the idea of marriage itself. Let us turn back the pages of time to look at a most special truth, that of reserving ALL physical relations for the privacy and permanency of marriage.

The Kiss is a wonderful story of the importance of chastity, modesty, temperance, restraint, virtue, marriage, and honor. My

kids love this story, and had much of it memorized word for word before they knew how to read.

The Story:

A princess is given a special gift by her parents, her “first kiss”. She is to keep this gift as a protected treasure, not giving it away to just anyone, but to who she wished to spend the rest of her life with in marriage, and with someone who had also saved their first kiss to give to her.

The princess treasures her gift, which is represented by a glowing orb of wondrous luminous light.

When the princess is of age, several suitors come to ask her hand. They dazzle her with romance, money, strength, and various feats of possessions and excitement. But in none of them did she see anyone worthy of giving her most precious gift to.

By and by, a humble farm boy does come along, and asks for her hand. He has nothing to give her except that which the princess really wanted: the gift of HIS first kiss. With it of course would come his fidelity, and he would honor her as a true queen all of his days.

And of course, they lived happily ever after.

Symbol without sacrament the great blasphemy

Symbol without sacrament is blasphemy. Engaging in behaviors associated with marriage without such a contract Divine agreement is to make a mockery of the

sacred and to make cheap that which is precious. It is to trade a taste of now for a banquet of forever.

We could take this further to say that sex is of God as it creates beings in His image. But sex without creation (childbearing) is like God without power, in other words, like a devil. Taking the sacred, robbing it of its holiness, and reducing it to a mere recreation. (See Peter Kreeft's "Culture War" book for further analysis along these lines.)

Pigmilion note on Chastity over life

“So you've come to save her from worse than death?”

Suggesting it was commonly known that to lose Chastity was worse than death

Why Women Don't Marry

Contributed from a friend of mine who wishes to remain anonymous:

Research says by 2030 that 50% of Western women will remain single their entire lives due to these trends:

1. Western men deciding to not marry at all - they conclude the civil, criminal, and financial risks/cost of long term relationships with women are too high;
2. Western men seeking more traditional marriage are choosing brides from outside N America and Western Europe. I think the war in Eastern Europe will accelerate this trend.

3. As women move up the academic and professional ladder they find fewer suitable male mates.

I think they have overlooked another growing trend and that is traditional males are migrating out of the Western culture. I am presently serving alpha male single clients who have moved to the Phillipines, Poland, and Latin America. If i were young and single i'd be in Brazil.

I have been sounding this alarm for years. The trends look far worse for LDS women: In addition to the macro trends above, 2/3 or more of LDS women are presently single; plus single young men are leaving the church at a much higher rate than single young women; single young women are joining the church at a higher rate than single young men, divorced men leave the church at a higher rate than divorced women; and church leadership is encouraging members to embrace homosexuals.

In 1990 the temple ceremony changed to oppose traditional marriage. For the past decade there have been multiple changes to the endowment marriage language, i presume they are trying to reverse or slow the collapse in LDS marriage. Meanwhile the premise of toxic masculinity has also mainstreamed into LDS culture.

[I'm not sure what he is refering to here, perhaps something about patriarchal order of man presiding over his wife.]

Most recently, temples have dropped all language in opposition to traditional marriage, but for Westerners its too late and there seems to be very little interest among Western women in changing back. As we baby boomers die, we are the last generation to commonly celebrate 50 yr anniversaries, the institution of traditional marriage may soon be lost in the West.

These trends will crush population quickly. Whatever cleansing that "begins in my house" better come soon or we won't have much left to cleanse.

The Family: A Proclamation to The World, 1995 Full Text

(see <https://www.lds.org/topics/family-proclamation?lang=eng>)

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 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 image of 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 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 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 and 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 and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers 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 divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

HUSBAND AND WIFE have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. "Children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and 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. Husbands and wives—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 and 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 and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. 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. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and 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.

WE WARN 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 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 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.)

BABOONS DO THIS! Dating Priorities & John Taylor, Shared by Julie Smith

What would life look like if there were 'letters of introduction' given when it came to friendships and acquaintances or long before a relationship of any sort for that matter was started? How many hearts would have been spared if this had happened? The character of a young man would have been known before an 'approach' was ever made. During the 18th and 19th centuries, a gentleman was never introduced to a young or old lady without her permission being obtained.

John Taylor had a few words to say about this also when he said "It is usual in other countries, before a man can be received into society, that he must bring with him a reputation from reputable men; he is expected to have introductory letters before he can be introduced to them and associate with them, and not because he is in the shape of a man and walks on two legs. Why baboons do that."

President Taylor continues by emphasizing the father's role in this area. "Before I should allow strangers to come into my family and mix with my wives and daughters, I should want to know who they were, where they came from, what their instincts were, and what was their moral and religious character. As a head of a family, I have a right to know these things; I have a right to know what influences are brought in and around my house, what spirits predominate there, and I have a right to know what a man's religion is." President Taylor states that he has a right first to know of these influences and second to make decisions regarding these influences.

I know personally for me I would love to see refined men and women

exercise more of a cautious manner when it came to starting any type of relationship, I believe things would look extremely different now if both this and a father's role as the head were taken more seriously. We must restore the way we do things and return to using PRINCIPLES for our relationships—not methods, programs, or games if we expect to restore our families and marriages and to leave a legacy of righteousness for the next generation.

Agency in Marriage Selection: Whose Handwriting on the Wall, Create (not find) Love, Don't be Relationship Accountants, & Differences Allowed in Marriage

Creating and choosing love vs finding love: A Question of Agency Resolved

Lets start with an idea from Dr. Jason Carroll, a BYU Family Life professor: We don't need to think about marriage as “a needle in a hay stack.” You may ask, “But doesn't God know the end from the beginning, that he knows the future, whom I will marry?” Yes he does! He has it all in a book. But were he (God) to open that book and show you the future, the page about whom you marry **WILL BE IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING.**

Can a relationship be “meant to be”? Not in a sense of predestination, but yes in a sense of a thing becoming what you designed it to be. Yes, we are to marry someone we love, but there is not a one single person who could satisfy the prerequisites for successful soulmate marriage. This does not detract from romance, it is the essence of romance. The essence of romance being working to create love, and agency.

This is the most profound thing I've heard in years was taught by Dr. Jason Carroll, a family life professor at Brigham Young University: The omniscience of God doesn't disable your agency, marriage included. We don't need to think about marriage as “a needle in a hay stack.” You may ask, “But doesn't

God know the end from the beginning, that he knows the future, whom I will marry?" Yes, he does! He has it all in a book. But were he (God) to open that book and show you the future, the page about whom you marry WILL BE IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING.

This thinking lines up with the teachings of the prophets. Many, particularly President Kimball and President Uchtdorf, taught that there's not just 1 person who you should marry, and that if you don't marry that person you're doomed. Rather, whoever you chose becomes your soul mate, and there are many compatible choices. Once you've chosen you focus on building that relationship into the most beautiful thing ever, and you remain together forever.

Here is a quote from President Kimball on soulmates:

"Soulmates are fiction and illusion; and while every young man and young woman will seek with all diligence and playfulness to find a mate with whom life can be most compatible and beautiful, yet it is certain that almost any good man and any good woman can have happiness and a successful marriage if both are willing to pay the price."

Here is President Uchtdorf on the same topic, "I don't believe there is only one right person for you. I think I fell in love with my wife, Harriet, from the first moment I saw her. Nevertheless, ... I don't believe she was my one chance at happiness in this life, nor was I hers... Once you commit to being married, your spouse becomes your soul mate, and it is your duty and responsibility to work every day to keep it that way" ("The Reflection in the Water" [Church Educational System fireside for young adults, Nov. 1, 2009]).

Don't Be Relationship Accountants:

Jason Carroll poses this question: Are We Forgetting how to fall in love? We have a generation now which is forgetting how to fall in love! We become relationship accountants, weighing everything exactly! Yes there is danger in marrying too soon, you want to do a home inspection before you move into a home, but we can't lose the "ah you're doing this? Sounds a little risky,

but well I'm doing it too, as long as I am with you!" We can value the momentum!

Differences allowed in Togetherness and Marriage

To be one does not mean to be the same. It's couples who deal with differences well that succeed (not couples that have a small amount of differences) (the scientists are showing us this left and right). Some differences stay around the entire life span, but they learn to deal with those and even be playful about it. It reminds me about Spencer Kimball's words, that his wife did her stuff, he did his stuff, and when they did stuff together they picked things they both like, and thus they got along just fine. Also Hugh Nibley taught that Adam and Eve didn't spend all their time together, heavens no (the ancient texts are showing these accounts of course)!

Equally Yoked Marriage Partner

Some have said to seek a woman better than yourself, or you're a fool. This is generally true. I wish to highlight possible meanings of the scriptural phrase "equally yoked". Prophets have counseled us to seek to be equally yoked in marriage. Let's consider some meanings:

1st the why of equally yoking: Marriage is hard. It is one of the greatest crosses of life. No matter how great the match, it is hard. With hard work it can become an ecstasy and the greatest part of life, but we can all agree, it is hard. Much harder than single people anticipate. Who we chose can help alleviate much of the struggle. Of course not all of it, as much of it is designed to refine us.

Note: Purpose of marriage / why to seek a strong spouse:
Marriage is about building a strong team in which you can work

together to do great things and save many souls (particularly through not limiting posterity). Marriage isn't about trying to baptize your spouse, or get your spouse to change themselves. Yes you help each other become better and in a serious way you are EACH OTHERS saviors, but it must be somewhat equal, both must save the other. If you marry out of pity you will likely resent it throughout your life as marriage is far harder than you know. To find someone strong can be intimidating, but all will be well if you mistake not pride for strength.

Cautionary note: divorces are typically NOT due to failure to select the right person, but failure to maintain the marriage once it begins. This said, we will now consider some ways to help the closing through the principle of being equally yoked.

Faith: this is obvious. Those of different religions rarely have happy marriages. Exaltation is absolutely unavailable to those who reject temple marriage.

Culture: though marrying into the same race is not a requirement, one must take caution in realizing that different races have different cultures, and this can often cause marital tension.

Politics: if you're conservative (as i hope you are) and you're dating a liberal, beware. If she is just ignorant and willing to learn, ok. If she is dogmatic in her views, has considered their ramifications and accepts them fully, run as fast as you can.

Health: it may be wise to seek someone who is similar to you in appearance and health. Mental health could also fit this category.

Kissing for Marriage, Not Dating

In the movie Sergeant York (based on a true story) he is courting a woman, she comes to tell him she wants to accept his proposal, she

says "I've come to tell you something" she reluctantly gives him the kiss. That's the message, then she leaves. It was implied that to kiss is to be engaged for marriage. Later he wants to make sure she isn't being coerced to marry him so he expressed that she is free to marry another interested fellow if she wishes. She is appalled by this and says "I don't just go around kissing a fellow I don't intend to marry". This was the character of the day, the women didn't give themselves cheaply, their affection and romance and body were for a marriage vow, no less. This is lost on today's society!

We de-incentivize the marriage covenant when we allow physical affection outside the bonds of marriage. Our generation is not the norm, but the bazaar who has forgotten this.

Medieval times anyone caught kissing they were forced to marry.

In certain cultures such as the Puritan, married couples were not to kiss in public.

Some cultures to this day don't have their first kiss until their wedding day. This seems like a terrific standard – if couples aren't kissing before marriage, they won't be sliding down a slippery slope toward other intimate behaviors. If a couple really likes each other that much, let them marry and enjoy each other's association throughout life. This also helps the couple know that their interest is mutual affection, not the sneaky villain of lust. How easy it becomes to know where your boundaries are if you make this one simple rule: that your first kiss will be on your wedding day. If you've not followed this pattern thus far do not despair: make the commitment today to adopt this practice heretofore and your chances for success increase all the more.

It is said in today's culture that a kiss must be given to show someone that you are interested in courting them. This is a destructive path. You can use your words (like a big boy!) and tell her of your interest. You **MUST** speak to her of your

intentions and interests and get on the same page. Enthusiastically enjoy time with her, holding her hand, and speaking of the wonders of life. But when it comes to such intimacy as kissing brings, let it wait as a sign of commitment.

Once the kiss is given, the message automatically comes with it, that you're interested in a serious relationship with them, one which will hopefully not come to an end. Are you ready to make that statement?



Have you spoken to them of the quality of their faith? Of their value of the family and freely bearing children? Do you have any clue how committed they are to Christ and actually living the high standards of the gospel? Beware, oh beware premature commitment!

The uneasy feeling related to public affection is the voice of conscience. We can demonstrate happiness and unity without kissing etc. When youth see lots of kissing etc., they will prematurely seek these things in their courting. The role of a parent is to show their youths how to properly court. Married couples should always be courting. Can you show them how to court and be affectionate without kissing? If not, do you expect them to?

A kiss has certainly lost its meaning in our time. This does not mean however that we are excused in the excessive use of it, particularly in unmarried scenarios. The kiss is the prequel to contact affections, which gradually leads to immorality, unchastity, fornication, and adultery.

A person ought only to kiss someone as a sign of a marriage pledge, and preferably as a token of the marriage vow given at the very ceremony. “You may now kiss the bride” has lost its meaning to us. What is the significance of that if you’ve already kissed her? That statement was meant to unlock a previously locked door. Here is wisdom: let it stay locked until the vow is complete! Before the day of the vow, is she yours? No, she is not. Would you take from her when she is not yours? You should not.

Flat out let them know, “I’m waiting to kiss until my wedding day.” If they further question you, explain, “It’s a decision I’ve made to help me ensure I’m committing to the right person.” Then they’ll know that your refusal to kiss in the dating phase isn’t due to lack of interest in them. In today’s permissive culture, it’ll likely be rare that you’ll find others with your same standards, unless you’ve found some communities which share similar standards.

It is taught today that a young person should give a kiss if they are serious about a relationship, but what does that mean today? Serious now to youth has nothing to do with desire for long term commitment via marriage, but is rather a triviality of lust used to indicate the selfish desire to have the pleasures of the flesh without the responsibilities associated with those blessings.

Note: A friend said suggested a book which illustrates this principle of reserving the kiss for marriage, “The Princess and the Kiss” by Jennie Bishop, on the power of purity.

<https://www.amazon.com/Princess-Kiss-Story-Gods-Purity/dp/0871628686#>

Inverse Square Law as Pertaining to Relationships

Kent Hovind points out that the inverse square law is functional in relationships the closer you get to the opposite sex the exponential the greater the attraction. The inverse square law is functional in relationships the closer you get to the opposite sex the exponentially greater the attraction.

This is why you, like Joseph in Egypt, run away when something inappropriate is about to happen.

This is why you wait to date until the appropriate age.

This is why you don't flirt with girls during a mission.

This is why you dance appropriately.

Etc.

On Natural Love Resulting in Childbirth: The Highest Romantic Expression

To the couple who is sexually active yet forbids from marriage, and thus forbids procreation of children together, we also ask: If your sexual intimacy is always hindered by the placement of some unnatural item between you, such as a condom, or some unnatural act such as spilling the seed outside, or some unnatural medication to kill life in you which was a result of the intimacy, is that relationship really natural? In other words, you can't long separate sexual intimacy from childbirth. While childbearing isn't the express purpose of sexual intimacy, children are the natural consequence of true love as expressed by the consummating act of sexual intimacy. In the old days, a marriage was consummated, made entirely valid, by sexual union, and not

before. Think of it: you loved each other so much, that you spawned a creature whom is the spitting image of the combination of the both of you. I can think of no greater expression of love for another person, that you believe they are the prototype which should be mixed with you to provide the next generation of ideal human beings to walk the earth. Oh how majestic is the power of the human race, they together can create life! Oh nature, cry out for joy! Adam has found Eve, and the earth is filled with songs of joy! Unending is the fruit of the womb, let the human race burst forth through space filling the planets with the overflow of their majesty!

Moral Expression by Marriage and Childbearing

In dating one should choose someone who represents the peak of human morality.

When a person chooses someone of high values, it means they themselves have high values.

When there is a divorce, it means one could not morally remain connected to someone with such different values they themselves had.

The ability to maintain a marriage is the capstone, it is to show that greatness can exponentially multiply and grow neverendingly. This is seen in the combined power of the parents, and in their progeny (unless for some outlier reason they cannot have children by any method; and if money is the limitation, their chief duty becomes the pursuit of sufficient money). The progeny are the parent's expression of forever power. The parents create people like themselves. Only a just

person can desire to have many children, for if one's values are just, so will be those of their children (generally speaking; for example, 2/3 of God's children chose to come to earth instead of choosing to follow Satan, and gaining 2/3 was worth the loss of 1/3; it is always better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all), and they will thus flood the earth for generations with justice. If they are unjust, they will know it, and they will not dare infiltrate the world in mass with their corrupt philosophies, knowing deep down that to put that on society would be an exponential evil, just as the righteous family giving many children to the world would equal exponential good. Having children intentionally is a bold act, it is the final statement of moral reason, it says that you are ready to make your mark on the world for generations. Some are so paranoid of making their mark on the world that they put off child bearing until they are too old to even have children, and thus they have cast no vote at all, and any outcome of the civilizations of earth are their fault just as much as the fault of those who voted evil. To refuse to vote is to vote for evil. By the fear of their procrastination, by the mistaken idea that they had all the time on the world to make up their mind and get serious and start to participate in the war of morals, they have rendered themselves mere cannon-fodder and guilty. To be righteous means that you attempt to do good things even when there is a real risk of failure.

Make no mistake, deliberate childbearing is the great cast of the die, it is the great act of humanity. It is the expression of everything you represent. It is the reflection of our measuring rod, as we cast away the bad we have seen in life and adhere to the good and seem to pass on that good to the child, giving them the advantage of your intelligence.

It thus follows that whom you chose to marry to enjoy and parent with you is of utmost importance, but what is even more important than basic selection is what is done after the selection. Maintaining love, building something together, these are the keys. This changes the parameters of how you make your choice. Now you see you're not looking for a spouse with just

good looks, you're not seeking a spouse who is just smart or likes you or has some feelings of faith similar to yours, you are looking for someone who loves life, who loves god, who is brave and willing to stand up in the war of morals. You want someone who is willing to stand up, willing follow you into the battlefield when the cause is just. You want someone who is obsessed with being happy, including the happiness which is only accessible in living the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You should set your happiness above all other priorities, meaning that if someone cannot deliver to you eternal happiness, you should run from them, no matter what sort of alms they beg of you. You yourself are of such great worth that to cheat yourself eternal joy would be the greatest robbery ever. You say you want to reward God by serving a needy person? Well that needy person had better not be asking of you to come down from the fullness of your potential, or your having come down will negate any good you could have done for the other person, and both you and your spouse will then live with the eternal guilt of having brought someone else less than what they could have had. If you have since enough to understand your full divine potential, doing anything that would jeopardize that fullness of you would ultimately be an act of selfishness. God wants the reward if seeing you exalted, and if you take that from him in the name of serving him, thinking that you should marry someone who can't bring you exaltation, this becomes debauchery. Any in such case will begin immediately to beg their spouse to take them to the temple, and will make it painfully obvious to the spouse that keeping them out of the temple and exaltation is keeping them from a fullness of joy.

No one person is of more value than the other, so it follows that you yourself have just as much right to be happy as anyone, and thus you should make yourself happy, and we know that the only lasting happiness exists in exaltation aka Godhood, which status God can grant to those who walk the path leading thereto, which path always involves temple ordinances and gospel commandments or guideposts. If you have been pausing to rest in your journey, now is the time to begin again and seek the next

post, the next temple ordinance. Joseph Smith said get your temple sealings, then go on and get your calling and election (election to Godhood) made sure (ratified, ascertained, verified, promised, vowed, secured).

Trusting Personal Revelation (Over well-meaning words of Respected Others)

To someone confused about whether to trust her revelation about what to do for her family or whether to trust her grandfather's revelation for her which was contrary to her own:

While it is true that a tragic philosophy of our time is that children should never turn to parents for advice but to the state or schools or experts instead, I will demonstrate that how the ultimate say of what a family does should be made by personal revelation to the heads of the family, namely the husband and wife.

You get more direct revelation for your family than your grandpa does for your family. your family is an independent unit separate from your grandfather. you are to co-president of the organization of your family, and you and the other co-president make the decisions. your grandfather is related to you, but does not have authority over the independent organization titled Your Family. This is your family, not your grandfathers'. In the next life you will belong to **4 kingdoms**: the kingdom of your father in heaven, the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of your parents, and the kingdom of your own. The last of these includes you your spouse and your posterity. you must be bold in making choices for the wellbeing of your kingdom. As a co-president of that kingdom, the revelation you receive is far greater than ANYONE else's.

Short Family Science Posts

The other day our writing teacher was saying we need to write about more topics, that the students usually write about things like complaining that "leggings" (yoga pants, underwear) are allowed on campus, that such things are against the honor dress code which outlaws tight fitting clothing. I raised my hand and said "yes we can write about more things, but slamming us for writing about these things is like King George telling the American colonists "will you shut up about taxes already!"" My point was that this thing is important to many of us, and we will not stop the revolution until victory at last! This is a private religious university (BYU), and it is well within our rights that we petition for these things.

Sex is God's grand symbol to set the relationship of marriage apart from all other relationships. In this context, it is sacred, not profane; a commandment, not a crime; a blessing, not a curse. A system for emotional consistency, not emotional strife.

Since we focus on "finding/matching" in dating, dating is not an industry, people make billions of dollars off of it. We are obsessed with finding the Right, rather than becoming the Mr. Right.

Being loved for who you are is a good message (and a critical part of truth that our society needs to understand!), but we also need to understand that there is a real need for growth, for progression, for becoming your best self. As far as marriage goes, the best way to prepare for it and find a compatible person is by making yourself a better person WHILE knowing that you are intrinsically special.

Marriage problems sometimes lead people to think “I have the wrong match.” But more often, the problem is that they are not focused on self improvement. Marriage and dating aren’t a mere roller coaster, they are a ship on which there is a steering wheel. Once marriage has occurred, it’s not a Russian roulette, marriage is a 1,000 choices though the days, not just the choice to marry. It’s like a mission, the hardest part isn’t deciding to go, it’s making the daily choices to do meaningful work. Or like a college, getting in is not the chief predictor of success, the chief predictor is how we live each day, how focused we are on our duties in our various roles.

Today dating is seen as a “needle in a haystack” game. But really there are people around us with whom a marriage can work, given that we are focused on creating and giving rather than receiving. Receiving is going to happen, but you must be a giver to find a giver. If we are not a giver we can be at greater risk of not being able to see the givers around us with whom romance can more easily occur. (Recall these are principals not rules)

On dating websites, they never tell you things to improve on. No one signed up for change, they all just signed up for being authentically loved for who they are. If a person must seek to improve themselves, and face reality. To think that improvement is impossible or unreasonably hard given our past experience is a lie of the Devil. The God can set you free to surpass your old bounds. The baby elephant can’t break a small chain on it’s let, it grows old and though it has the strength now to break the small chain, it doesn’t, for it remembers that it is too weak. (The elephant has grown since his failure, he must try again!)

The relationship is like a tree, half the roots from family experience of husband, half from family experience of wife. The trunk of the tree is the couple process. The leaves and fruits are the marital outcomes. The family members of each spouse is like the soil; it influences the tree, but it's not the tree (you can think of the soil being the outer family of the spouses as perhaps being changeable; you can transplant the tree into different soil and the tree, with proper nourishment, can still bear fruit and beauty as good as any other tree!). (A person can come from a bad family and still be a good candidate for a strong relationship IF they learn from the mistakes of their family experience rather than embrace the mistakes; like father Abraham whose father was a wicked idolatrous man; Abraham said "no way" and he did his own thing regardless of what his dad was doing;)

Richard Clark: in the scriptures, the family in the beginning eras of earth wasn't just parents and children, it was the kindred family, or as we call it today, the extended family as well.

It takes about 2 generations to create a new type of family; you pass down the good not the bad, and you can break the chain of how your family has been for generations. Our society sees marriage as a thing for 2 people only, but rather, see it as a generational thing!

Intergenerational transmission: transmitting lifestyle from one to the next. means everything;

- a. Beliefs: ideologies and values
- b. Behaviors patterns: ways of doing things
- c. Communication skills and handling differences
- d. Emotions: intimacy and handling stress

Sometimes we moralize the amoral; this makes us inflexible in relationships. It's when we think there is only 1 right way to fold a towel, that it's the highest and most true way! When really this thing has nothing to do with morals!

Some whom have divorced parents have higher marriage success rates, others have lower. What determines it? Marital commitment. A person from divorced parents can either be extra committed to their marriage, avoiding what happened to them; or they can keep a back door easy escape option for their marriage like they saw their parents seemed to do.

Transitional character by Dr. Carlfred Broderick: you can reframe your family it doesn't have to be like earlier generations. And these changes can affect a generations after for the better or worse. (Father Abraham is the prototypical agent of this we can look to for encouragement that yes we can do this)

Trends also show that persons have stronger relationships in marriage than they do in cohabitating (cohabitating is having sex with your significant other outside of marriage). While many, especially in Europe, are saying there is no difference between cohabitating and marriage, the statistics that just were released from 2016 about a week ago about these things CONTINUE TO say otherwise. The slight difference today in marriages being weaker is that marriages are becoming more like cohabitating; more like something that can be easily extinguished at "no fault".

Driving on the freeway today at 1am I saw a sign advertising for Valentine's Day which is the day of romantic celebration it had a hand two hands forming the shape of a heart within that heart was a car the same as to advertise that the expression of romance this time of year should be in purchasing your lover this car; however when I saw the sign my mind immediately went to something else and can anyone blame me for this? No! my mind went to the scripture that says "where your treasure is there will your heart be also"; whatever happened to romance, what ever happened expressing love in a non-monetary fashion, what happened to music, ever happened to poetry, whatever happened to art, simply put whatever happens to Beauty? I know gifts are one of the language of love, but this is getting silly!

Babies grow only 2 days a month, they grow 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in one day. The day before this happens, they are very fussy. The day it happens, they sleep a lot.

Temporally minded sexuality is merely about the thrill of the moment. Spiritually minded sexuality makes us think of our heritage, and our commitment to the benefit of society, and makes us think of the future. Spiritually minded sexuality is emotional not just physical. It's about the body and spirit, not just about the body. It's not light minded, it's an intelligent act. Temporally minded sexuality leads to estrangement and frustration, spiritual minded sexuality leads to peace and lasting joy.

D&C 42:22-23 says if you lust after a woman you deny the faith; this could even pertain to your wife, you must cleave to your wife; you can't be selfish in your marriage in a way that would harm and damage and create struggle in your marriage. Being married isn't a license to lust after your wife. You must respect her and be united in all things. It's true that abstinence in marriage is unchaste, for such is ordained for this setting, but it's also true that these things when handled incorrectly are breaking Gods laws.

Sexual fragmentation is harmful because it is deceptive. Human intimacy is to be expressed in sex, but people skip the commitment and go straight to sex. Thus, it's fragmented, and is counterfeit intimacy. If we relate to each other fragmentally, we miss out on full relationships, and often hurt others. If people merely marry for sex their marriage will fail from the pressures of intellectual social and spiritual things. Sex before marriage makes us think that the relationship is stronger than it is. Sexual response is from the brain, dopamine, oxytocin, prolactin, these things released in the brain are critical to our satisfaction in relationships, thus we can get tricked that we have a better relationship than we do if we are having sex in order to fall in love, sex as the foundation of a relationship rather than the capstone of it.

Sex is a symbol between mortals and deity, wherein the mortals take part in giving life. Thus, human intimacy is a sacrament. A sacrament is anything that unites us with God and his limitless power. We thus see that we are the children of God. We are acting like Gods when we procreate. But if we express the sexual part of ourselves in ways that are contrary to Gods patterns, that is when we will never be less like God.

Chastity and fidelity are more than sexual abstinence before marriage and physical fidelity after marriage. This is because human sexuality is not simply a physical matter. Chastity and fidelity begin in the spirit, not in the body, and involve the giving of our hearts our broken hearts our softened hearts to our mates unequivocally -Terry Olson, school of family life, BYU

Elder Robbins Oct 2011: You need your child as much as they need you; don't worry about why they are hard to deal with, just be thankful. An easy child doesn't make for as much growth.

Family meals

- a. research says higher academic achievement and more language development and teens out of trouble since they have a time and place where people care about them;
- b. dinner is not time for discipline, it's a safe place for family time.
- c. Research says you need at least 3 meals together a week as a family.

(note: discipline should be given any time it is needed, even at meal time, though the emphasis of the meal time is for warm friendly time.)

How Cohabitation and Low Birthrates Hurt Homes & Nations

There has never been a civilization that has remained standing when it's birth rate drops below sustainability! When China learned this they changed their limit from 1 to 2 children. Still not enough, but improvement. 2.1 is the minimum for sustainability. The only reason the US has enough right now is due to immigration.

Studies show that cohabitation (living with someone of the opposite sex and having sexual intercourse with that person outside of marriage) is climbing in these past 50 years to record highs. Not only will there be no rising generation and dramatic depopulation worldwide except in some small parts of Africa and among the Mormons, but people refusing parenthood grow up to be of weak character.

The cohabitation of couples is increasing but we are not seeing a lot of research on it. The variables tested in the data thus far are not as comprehensive as often they are in other fields. Where is the info coming to lead public opinion in favor of this when the studies show it is not leading to marriage stability? Do the ways we view marital stability, economic and sociological, suffice? For these are how it is measured so far (co. and child effect).

Decline in marriage interest in first years of marriage (Kurdek 1999) (from *Toward a Greater Understanding of the Cohabitation Effect: Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Communication*). Marriage has been what holds society together for millennia, and we are in the middle of an experiment of devaluing it, and throwing it out by and large.

Those who cohabit likely to have risk factors in the first place (Bumpass & Sweet, 1989) (from *Toward a Greater Understanding of the Cohabitation Effect: Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Communication*). This has concerned

people researching whether cohabitation causes divorce/unhealthy relationships, but studies show that the factor for the unhealthy relationship is not a set of predetermined factors, but is the fact of their cohabitation.

Couples which cohabited 1st before marriage have less problem solving ??? less problem solving, skills? just saying less problem solving doesn't make a whole ton of sense. (from *Toward a Greater Understanding of the Cohabitation Effect: Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Communication*). It seems that they used sex as the basis for their relationship rather than the sealing of their relationship. They lose their reasoning powers as they give themselves up to passion, literally meaning passive, or something out of one's control.

Dependent variables in studies on cohabitating were problem solving (i.e., six individual and three dyadic) and social support (i.e., two help seeking and two helper) behaviors. (from *Toward a Greater Understanding of the Cohabitation Effect: Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Communication*). These factors go to show the healthiness of a relationship; they let us rate the relationship quality.

Studies have consistently shown that, compared to spouses who did not cohabit, spouses who cohabited before marriage have higher rates of marital separation and divorce (e.g., Bennett, Blanc, & Bloom, 1988) (from *Toward a Greater Understanding of the Cohabitation Effect: Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Communication*). They think that having sex with each other tests their chemistry to see if they are compatible, but what they need to test are each other's personalities not bodies. Some blame the latter-day saints for dating a lot before marriage, dating many people at a time as well, but this is where the selection needs to take place, not in the sex, but in the meeting many persons. All

Many believe cohabitation will improve their ability to choose a better marriage partner (Hall & Zhao, 1995). (from *Toward a Greater Understanding of the Cohabitation Effect: Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Communication*) What causes this belief? Who is pushing this agenda? The studies are showing that people who cohabit have more divorce!

Approximately 4 million unmarried opposite-sex couples living together, seven times that of 1970 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998). (from *Toward a Greater Understanding of the Cohabitation Effect: Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Communication*).

“The effects of children on marital stability led us to propose that the presence of children in a cohabitation relationship is very likely to inhibit the cohabiting couple from terminating their relationship” (cohabitation children effect article). But cohabitating persons don’t have as many children, so they are gambling.

Nonmarital cohabitation increasingly becomes a part of family (cohabitation children effect article). This shows that we are not doing enough footwork to get out the statistics about the negative effects of cohabitating. We are settling for Hollywood rumors rather than science.

“Prior research on marital stability indicates that the presence of a child or children in the family reduces the risk of marital disruption” (Becker, Landes, & Michael, 1977; Cherlin, 1977; Lillard & Waite, 1993; Mauldon, 1992; Morgan & Rindfuss, 1985; Morgan, Lye, & Condran, 1988; Thornton, 1977; Waite, Haggstrom, & Kanouse, 1985; Waite & Lillard, 199) (cohabitation children effect article).

Much increase in cohabitation (Bumpass & Sweet, 19) (cohabitation children effect article).

“Relationship between childbearing and marital stability has taken two approaches: an economic approach and a sociological approach” (cohabitation children effect article). The religious aspect has been deleted. Marriage is now separated from religion, sex, and children.

“Little research attention has been paid to the formation of cohabitation relationships, and even less to the stability of these relations” (cohabitation children effect article). So we need to research the dating trends in young people if we are to get at the root of this, and of the media influence from marketers appealing to their underdeveloped brains, focusing on their primitive nature.

Timing of marital unions apply to nonmarital union timing as well (cohabitation children effect article). People are seeing their cohabitations as their life marriages.

Do cohabitators want marriage? Dr. Carroll of BYU has showed that 8/8 of them do. (Carroll, 2017). Usually the women are willing to marry and want to marry, but are cohabitating in an attempt to get the men on board.

The reason we have more cohabitating is birth control, which allows young people to live sexual lives while not searching for a reliable marriage partner, but a soul-mate type person who completes them. (The Long and Leisurely Route: Coming of Age in Europe Today).

The first half of the 19th century in Europe, early 20's was the latest people would marry (The Long and Leisurely Route: Coming of Age in Europe Today).

One example which puts well the case of what our young adults are expecting out of life today is illustrated in this story, "Marie, age 28, is a student at a university in Denmark, studying psychology. Currently she is in Italy, collecting interviews for a research project, and living with her Brazilian boyfriend Pablo, who is studying engineering there. Her plan is to become a psychologist who works with deaf children and their families, but much of her life is up in the air right now. How much more education should she pursue, if any? She and Pablo would like to marry and have two children eventually, but when? Their lives are busy now. How could they fit children in amid their other ambitions and adventures? If there is one thing that is certain about Marie's existence, it is that her life is vastly different from that of her mother or grandmother when they were 28 years old." The grandparents of these Millennials had their first child a year after marriage, and were married by age 20 on average, assuming adult roles at that time. (The Long and Leisurely Route: Coming of Age in Europe Today)

Europeans only have 1.4 children on average today (The Long and Leisurely Route: Coming of Age in Europe Today). This is below what is needed to replace the population: 2.33. Now the only ones who meet the 2.33 bar are Mormons and some African nations. Zero developed nations are at the

reproduction to repopulate bar. Children are no longer associated with sex or marriage. Sex is no longer associated with marriage. The parents now make children a collector's item rather than a part of their lives. Of course no one is looking at how children refine parents. When people refuse to become parents, they live in a state of arrested development, thinking that they are further advanced than they are. Having children pushes you further than you ever thought possible, and with no one having children now, we are witnessing a rising generation of pansies. Brilliant, well versed in the texts of the scholars, but pansy on all accounts of character. Generational theory has deemed the uprising generation as the one which will decide whether society will cease to exist as we know it because of their failure to reproduce. This has become a well-recognized crisis.

This time of wandering around in your 20's before marriage has been termed "The apex of freedom" and "the self-focused age." (The Long and Leisurely Route: Coming of Age in Europe Today). What are the 20's people spending their time on? Some of them school, others leisure, others endless dating, basically anything but altruistic behavior.

One consequence of the cohabitation increase over the past 50 years is that "the continent has too many old people and not enough young ones." (The Long and Leisurely Route: Coming of Age in Europe Today). This makes taking care of the old people harder. For millennia the retirement savings has consisted of having lots of children to take care of you when you are senile and feeble. Today people try to save money for retirement, but few can, and with inflation from the Federal Reserve, the real value of money saved will never be as concrete for us as is the working hands of your posterity to obtain bread for their aged parents.

A Love Greater than Terminal Illness: My Story in the Ensign

My story as related in the Ensign Magazine, October 2017

For official text and audio of this article at the church website, see by [clicking here](#) or by using this URL:

<https://www.lds.org/ensign/2017/10/young-adults/a-love-greater-than-terminal-illness?lang=eng>

A Love Greater Than Terminal Illness by Laura Welkes, Ensign Magazine 10-2017

Megan and Nate Richardson will tell you that happiness doesn't come from your circumstances—it comes from your faith.

A few years ago, Nate Richardson found himself in a college science class in which the teacher brought up the subject of cystic fibrosis (CF)—a chronic and progressive disease that affects the body's ability to produce or break down substances



like mucus, sweat, or digestive juices. CF can severely affect the quality of life of the patient, and currently there is no cure. The students began a discussion of whether it would be a good idea for people with that disease to have children. Since CF is genetic, there is a possibility that the parent could pass the disease along to the child if the other parent is a carrier, thus affecting the child and ensuring that the disease would remain within the human gene pool.

There were people in the class on both sides of the issue, but Nate remained silent. He was so upset by the question that he would not speak, because he knew someone with CF. In fact, she was his wife, Megan.

Cystic fibrosis demands a rigorous treatment schedule and frequent appointments with many different specialists—anywhere from three to five in a typical week. Megan has to do respiratory therapy twice a day, which involves putting on a vest that fills with air pockets that essentially pound her until the mucus in her lungs becomes easier to cough up. Because she gets sick easily—and when she gets sick, she generally has to be hospitalized—she wears a mask in most public places. She can't do sports that involve running, and she has to be careful about not overexerting herself. She and Nate love to go hiking together, but depending on how sick she is, she might have to carry along an oxygen tank at the same time.

Left: photograph courtesy of the Richardsons; right: photograph by Leslie Nilsson

Nate and Megan Richardson decided to marry knowing full well that Megan had CF. She was diagnosed at two years old and had spent most of her life dealing with the disease. What's more, Megan and Nate had been good friends since high school. They knew as well as anyone could the struggles that lay ahead of them. "It's probably harder than I thought it would be," Nate says. "But," he adds firmly, "most good things are that way." Megan says, "I think everyone kind of envisions the fairy-tale ending: you get married and then everything's all perfect. And then it's not perfect. But it's wonderful in its own right."

In the end, the blessings they have received match and even surpass the trials they have faithfully and joyfully endured—together.

Friends First

Megan and Nate went to the same middle school and briefly to the same high school in Payson, Utah, even though they didn't know each other then. Then their senior year of high school, they both went to an interschool debate competition. Nate remembered Megan from his old high school, and he had a feeling that he should talk to her. He said hello, and the two of them sat down and began talking. They were close friends from that moment on.

While Nate was on a mission, Megan pursued her education at a private liberal arts college in Utah, graduating with a degree in creative writing. Her academic success came after a lot of hard work and sacrifice. When she was in the hospital, she often had to videoconference in order to “attend.” However, she made it to



graduation with stellar grades in a field she is passionate about and continues to pursue.

Meanwhile, Nate returned home from his missionary service and gave Megan a call. He was surprised by her enthusiastic response, and they went on their first serious date soon afterward. When Nate brought Megan to meet his family, his brother told him, “I don’t know who else you’re dating, but she needs to be in the top three.”

Nate certainly agreed. As they continued dating, Nate began to pray about their relationship, and every time, he felt that it was “definitely, definitely a good thing.”

A Step of Faith

Those promptings helped Nate have the faith to propose. But by that point he knew Megan so well and loved her so much, it was a fairly straightforward decision for him. “I got the courage to marry into an illness because of the waves of joy that came to me when I was with Megan. Isaiah 48:18 refers to one’s righteousness being as the waves of the sea. That is how I felt with Megan; her goodness hit me like a wave.”

In the end, he was overcome with the certainty that marrying her was a good path. In fact, he says, “I felt that if I refused to marry the woman I loved on grounds of her physical health, I would have to answer to God for it. God loves all His children, even the frail ones.”

Of her own decision to marry, Megan said, “I always knew that I wanted to get married, but when I was born, the life expectancy was 19 or 20. And then, as I got older, I thought, ‘Okay, well, I’m living this long—what am I going to do with this life I have?’”

She says, “I think the hardest part for me was processing through what would happen if my husband were to get remarried after I passed away. The life expectancy is currently 35, so that would give him a long time to be alone. But would I be OK with someone else coming in?”

Then her aunt Terri passed away in a tragic accident, leaving behind her husband and children. Megan’s uncle remarried, and

it was encouraging for Megan to see how well his new wife fit in. “And it just made me think, ‘Well, it can’t be that different.’” When Nate and Megan got engaged, Nate’s family members were supportive, but they wanted to make sure he knew what he was doing. Some of them pointed out to him that they might not be able to have children. “I told them that we would try to have children, and if they came, good. If not, then we would still serve the Lord. And in whatever form they came, we would love them.”¹

Nate’s family also had concerns about his finances. He had not been home from serving a mission for very long, and he didn’t have much. With Megan’s medical bills to consider, money would be a real issue for them both. However, still feeling like they were making the right decision, Nate and Megan went forward with faith and joy.

Joy Greater than the Pain

Photograph by Leslie Nilsson

Things were still far from being easy. Because the disease is progressive, Megan's health has only gotten worse over the time she and Nate have been married. When she was a kid, Megan



only had to be hospitalized every few years. Now it's typically every four months. She sometimes has new issues come up, whether from CF or the medications used to treat CF. When it seems like they have solved one problem, another comes along. And yet, always cheerful and laughing, Megan is quick to point out the good parts of her life. "I think I've grown a lot because of CF. You take the Lord for granted a lot when things are going hunky-dory. So when things in your life aren't going hunky-dory very often, it makes you turn to the Lord more. And then when they are, you're super grateful that they're going great!"

Nate says, "Megan is the joy of my life. I've long said that there are compensatory spiritual blessings of joy which the Lord gives to Megan to balance out the difficulty of her illness. These cause me to watch in wonder at how happy and optimistic she is. But since our marriage, I've also been taxed by this illness, perhaps more than I thought possible. Now I've also come to see those compensatory blessings of the Lord come into my life. Jesus

Christ is the central figure of our lives. We lean on Him every hour.”

Nate has thought a lot about the discussion in his science class, and he, at least, is convinced the world would lose something precious without people like Megan. “I should have spoken up, but I didn’t. I was too frustrated that we were even having that conversation. The world needs more people like my wife, so I hope we have a dozen children just like her, in sickness or in health. The illness doesn’t define who she is.”

Life Is Better Together, Forever

Photograph by Leslie Nilsson

Overall, Megan and Nate both agree that life together has been “better all around.” Nate says, “We make wiser financial decisions as a couple; we think in the long term more as a couple.” Together they make the most of each moment they have. “Basically any time we get to be together is a good time—whether or not she’s feeling well or in the hospital. It’s always good to be around her.”

They take a lot of comfort each day from their temple covenants. Nate says, “I see Megan as those covenants describe she can be someday. Of course, I’m amazed at how much progress she’s already made. But that gives me the frame that I put her in: this is my eternal companion who will be by my side throughout all of our endeavors.”

Megan says, “The temple helps us to make our lives and the time we have more meaningful as well. When we pledge to consecrate all we have to the building up of the Lord’s kingdom, it makes me much more eager to say, ‘Yes, I will bring so-and-so dinner, even though I’m super tired today,’ because it’s something I can do, especially with His help.” Nate agrees: “We have too much work to do to have time for pity.”

She adds, “And it’s wonderful to know that families are forever, that we will continue on through the eternities. Whatever children we are able to have—whether it’s now or in the

hereafter—will be able to be with us forever as well. That’s a wonderful promise, and I take courage knowing that.” Nate says that often the secret to their courage is focusing on those eternal blessings and the joy they are being given here and now. “In some ways, I can say we have cystic fibrosis; I know I can’t understand all she goes through, but it’s become a major part of my life. I’ve long loved what Elder Neal A. Maxwell taught, that as our lives have increasing trials, our cups of joy are filled accordingly to match the level of trial, even until they are overflowing.”

Swallowed Up in the Joy of Christ

“When we reach a point of consecration, our afflictions will be swallowed up in the joy of Christ. It does not mean we won’t



have afflictions, but they will be put in a perspective that permits us to deal with them. With our steady pursuit of joy and with each increasing measure of righteousness, we will experience one more drop of delight—one drop after another—until, in the

words of a prophet, our hearts are ‘brim with joy’ (Alma 26:11). At last, the soul’s cup finally runs over!”

Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Brim with Joy” (Brigham Young University devotional, Jan. 23, 1996), 9, speeches.byu.edu.

[Note: We have fostered and adopted a number of children and have recently been blessed to have a child biologically after 7 years of infertility.]

Marriage and Dating

Topics: marriage, dating, timing, polygamy, church policy, missionary force

-“If I were a lady I should be careful whom I married: I should want to be pretty sure that the man tried to live his religion as revealed to us. Young folks generally marry because they love, sometimes because they are pretty. It is said that beauty is “only skin deep,” and I believe it is so, it will shortly fade away. We should be reasonable on this subject, as well as on others; but when a person is love struck, there is no reason in them. We should never be struck very bad. We should love so that we could throw him off at any time if he does not do right.” (John Taylor, JD 19:167)

-“A great many women are more nice than wise. If they can get a man with a pretty face, they think it is all there is about it. Some men think if they can get a woman that has a handsome face, that

is all there is of it. But it is that woman that has a head and sensibility,- I do not care if her head is three feet long,- it has nothing to do with the character that lives in the body. It is the character that is in the man's house, the spirit that is in the man; it is the spirit that is in the woman and in the house that makes the woman and that makes the man." (Brigham Young JD 5:92)

-LDS prophets teach we date after age 16 in our day in age, even though in a different culture, that of Christ's day, the men often married at 16, not usually later than 20, and the women usually slightly younger. It was not uncommon for them to marry at age 14. *We live in a unique era, which needs unique instruction. -"When it's the right person, and the right place, the temple, it's the right time." -LDS Ensign (I'll get the reference).

-For the Strength of Youth pamphlets are kept in the pockets of most of the 12 Apostles, we never outgrow those standards.

-Long as Jehovah instructed his people to marry inside the covenant.

-Trans-racial marriage was a positive result of the gathering of the saints in the early days of the church. It helped them embrace more cultures (see LDS Newsroom of race and the church).

-Moses (a Hebrew man) married an Ethiopian woman. One thought this wrong, and was cursed with leprosy to show that "white skin" isn't all that.

-Joseph married Asenath a woman of Egypt.

-Thomas S. Monson says were he to go back and live his youth again, he would have married at an earlier age. (See "To The Rescue" by Heidi Swinton, his biography)

-When and how many children to have are between the couple and the Lord, and the command to multiply and replenish the earth (to have children) remains in force to God's people. (Elder Anderson recent General Conference Address) (Church Priesthood Handbook)

-Polygamy has been practiced by God's people at times when he needed them to do so to raise up seed to him (Jacob 2 from the Book of Mormon); this currently is not legal in the LDS church. Elder Holland suggests that polygamy is more of an acceptance to the rule rather than a norm in heaven (I am getting the reference for this). The Book of Jacob also speaks of having only 1 wife. *When I was in the Missionary Training Center, our

leader had those of us in a congregation of hundreds of missionaries stand up if they had polygamist ancestry. Almost a majority stood. This may be an insight as to why the Lord directed such for his early saints, to get more missionaries to bring his saving gospel truths to cover the earth in preparation for his Millennial reign, to send the voice of warning to the ends of the earth.

The 3 Types of Crazy to Look for In Dating

The top 3 things to look for in a spouse while you date? Look for 3 types of craziness. Other than those, it really doesn't matter who you choose – God's children can be compatible with each other if these 3 things are present.

1. Crazy for you 2. Crazy for Jesus 3. Crazy for Mormonism. Now granted if she is crazy for these and you aren't crazy for them, that won't work either.

Now item 1, the craziness for the other spouse, that will wane, at least the physical aspect the physical need for the other surely dies down after 6 months to a year, but the respect for the other must be strong from the beginning, and it will likely last, notwithstanding resolving hard issues together. As a brilliant Jewish politician Ben Shapiro said, "though physical attraction has to be there, who you want to have sex with really has nothing to do with who you choose to marry." He also gave wise council in saying that marriage is serious business, not just about fun. Now on to the last 2 points, the religiosity aspect. Granted, if you're not Mormon or



Christian, don't marry someone who is, it's extremely hard to mesh faiths. Faith is a heavy thing. It's hard for a non-Mormon to understand how and why God asks so much of Mormons. The non-latter-day saint spouse will not likely follow the latter-day saint spouse to the climbs the latter-day saint is want to make. Same chaos with the Christian and non-Christian.

People can be happily married outside of religious faith or inter-faith (though in my opinion and the opinion of religious people everywhere, not as happy). I know lots of interfaith couples and I love them all. I'm just speaking about statistical chances for happiness as measured in the social sciences. Statistically speaking, same faith couples do better than inter-faith couples, and when that same faith couple is a Mormon couple, they do even better yet! But hey, maybe that's your calling, don't ask me. Just know I'll never give a Latter-day Saint council to marry a non-Latter-day Saint.

So back to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I've separated items 2 and 3 (craziness for Jesus and craziness for Mormonism) because a person at times will have a hard time following the councils of Mormon prophets, but their faith in Jesus can pull them through that trial of faith victorious. Jesus is the head of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but it can be hard to recognize that at times for some people.

Joseph Smith taught (in "Lectures on Faith") that a religion which doesn't require someone to give their all doesn't have sufficient power to save them. That's a high bar! As a Mormon family follows the prophets and follows their conscience (within the parameters of the councils of the prophets), only God knows the astounding things the couple will be called upon to do.

We are familiar with the concept of a calling in the church which must be magnified to gain exaltation. Less familiar is the idea that we have callings in the gospel, which also need to be magnified to gain salvation. How is a calling in the gospel different from a calling in the church? It's similar to the old testament concept of a "free will offering" – you choose what it

looks like. You choose what sign you want to give to God. The calling in the church is about doing well with a very specific assignment given to you from priesthood leaders. A calling in the gospel is doing well with yourself and your family in obeying the whispered instructions of the Holy Ghost (which always fall within the parameters of the teachings of the prophets).

This brings us to point 1, crazy for your spouse. This is important here because when your spouse comes to you and says something like “I feel prompted to do the following thing which is in the parameters of the teachings of the prophets...” you must be open to that.

As your spouse approaches you with this type of an idea, you pray about it yourself for confirmation of the idea, wherein you’ll get one of the following answers:

1. “it doesn’t matter”
2. “not good”
4. “you decide, it’ll be fun for all of us to see where this goes” (“God, you speak southern!? This keeps getting better!”)
5. “hm... you might not be ready for this... ask later. And in the meantime, READ THOSE SCRIPTURES! PS I love you & I’m proud of you!” (“God, well is it written of thee that thou art a Lord of hosts of armies and a God of mysteries! PS Thanks for the compliment!”)
6. “I respect you and your wishes. Do it if you wish, much good can come of it, but know that it’s not strictly required of you”
7. “Try 7” (God can give us specific answers! He isn’t limited to yes or no questions!)
8. **DISCLAIMER:** Though God certainly has a sense of humor, prayer isn’t this casual and jovial (usually).

So, I’m not suggesting one spouse blindly follow the other because of their “craziness” (deep respect) for them, but that without the craziness-respect factor present, a spouse will shut down the other spouse without further contemplation when these types of ideas are presented.

This is why I say make sure your marriage candidate is crazy, they must be willing to do hard things! I once had a debate with a protestant wherein he said, “that’s not reasonable, reason has never been on the side of Mormonism”. First off that’s a stupid debate tactic, but second off, the wisdom of God is far different from the wisdom of man! I’m proud of the fact that I belong to a church that looks different from society at large! It wasn’t reasonable for Noah to build the ark. Wasn’t reasonable for the early pioneers to give up their property and trek into poverty in Zion. Wasn’t reasonable for John Tanner to give up his fortune to save the temple then in construction. Wasn’t reasonable for Cowdry to go wander looking for Joseph Smith for a reason he knew not. There are plenty of examples where we can see in hind sight that crazy actions for the sake of church and gospel callings turned out to be the means of saving many souls. Granted keep all this in wisdom and order, but within the parameters of wisdom and order there’s plenty of room for bold, daring, and what others would call “unreasonable” acts of faith.

Dating: Definition, Intentional Method, Timing

Sections:

- 2 Fun Videos on when and how to date
- Definition of a Date
- The old-fashioned date vs hanging out
- A Date Doesn’t Imply Continuing Commitment, Make Early Dates Simple and Not Serious
- Post mission dating is serious
- Paired Before Exclusive Dating

-Inappropriately early pairing in dating in the name of hanging out

2 Fun Videos on when and how to date:

A Christian Perspective of When to date (by Blimey Cow "Messy Mondays" with Jordan Taylor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOMROVmcnHM>

Christian Dating Secrets: Intentional Dating Toward Marriage (by Blimey Cow "Messy Mondays" with Jordan Taylor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpCCFFa0Lsw>

Definition of a Date:

“If you don’t know what a date is, perhaps this definition will help. I heard it from my 18-year-old granddaughter. A “date” must pass the test of three p’s: (1) planned ahead, (2) paid for, and (3) paired off.” (Elder Oaks – CES Fireside May 2005 The Dedication of a Lifetime)

The old-fashioned date vs hanging out:

“Simple and more frequent dates allow both men and women to “shop around” in a way that allows extensive evaluation of the prospects. The old-fashioned date was a wonderful way to get acquainted with a member of the opposite sex. It encouraged conversation. It allowed you to see how you treat others and how you are treated in a one-on-one situation. It gave opportunities to learn how to initiate and sustain a mature relationship. None of that happens in hanging out.” (Elder Oaks – CES Fireside May 2005 The Dedication of a Lifetime)

A Date Doesn’t Imply Continuing Commitment, Make Early Dates Simple and Not Serious:

“Young women, resist too much hanging out, and encourage dates that are simple, inexpensive, and frequent. Don’t make it easy for young men to hang out in a setting where you women provide the food. Don’t subsidize freeloaders. An occasional

group activity is okay, but when you see men who make hanging out their primary interaction with the opposite sex, I think you should lock the pantry and bolt the front door. If you do this, you should also hang out a sign, “Will open for individual dates,” or something like that. And, young women, please make it easier for these shy males to ask for a simple, inexpensive date. Part of making it easier is to avoid implying that a date is something very serious. If we are to persuade young men to ask for dates more frequently, we must establish a mutual expectation that to go on a date is not to imply a continuing commitment.” -Elder Oaks

Post-mission dating is serious:

“Men, if you have returned from your mission and you are still following the boy-girl patterns you were counseled to follow when you were 15, it is time for you to grow up. Gather your courage and look for someone to pair off with. Start with a variety of dates with a variety of young women, and when that phase yields a good prospect, proceed to courtship. It’s marriage time. That is what the Lord intends for His young adult sons and daughters. Men have the initiative, and you men should get on with it.” -Elder Oaks

Paired Before Exclusive Dating:

Dr. Jason Carroll, BYU Family Life professor, explained in one of his lectures essentially this:

In our culture, we explore relationships 1 at a time, skipping the paired dating stage of going on dates with lots of people, and jumping to the exclusive dating stage. It’s not developmentally the ideal because you don’t get to meet very many people. We often become close physically before emotionally. We are holding hands etc., appearing as a couple before we are very emotionally involved with each other! We single out with a person when we should be developing multiple relationships. Dating multiple people was the norm in grandma’s day (when marriages were healthier on average! Way less divorce!), but today if you do this you’re called a player! Yes, we all want someone special, but we must go through the developmental stage of getting to know well lots of people. Paired dating with

multiple people at the same time helps the “someone special” come faster, because you learn what “someone special” really means to you.

Inappropriately early pairing in dating in the name of hanging out:

“Don’t play with definitions – some teens in the church think it’s ok to pair off exclusively because they call it “hanging out” instead of dating. No matter what you call it, it still leads to spending time alone with one person and identifies you as a “coupled” person. If you pair off, the attractions and feelings you will have for that person are the same whether you call it dating, going out, going steady, or hanging out. When our prophetic leaders talk about relationships, they talk about principles and practices that apply – no matter what words we use to label those relationships...” -Dr. Jason S. Carroll, Marriage Compass

Restored Social Principles - Excerpts from a Letter to a Friend

Topics herein treated include role of sex on earth and in heaven, the importance of marriage and reproduction on earth and in heaven, role of drugs, feminism, LDS leaders, homosexuality, Millennium, and some essential differences between the restored church of Jesus Christ and contemporary Christian churches

(Protestants and Catholics), marijuana, young marriage, temples, diversity

This document goes into some topics deeper than some are comfortable with, but it remains appropriate for a mature audience, and discloses no forbidden information. In the name of apologetics, these are important messages. Many seek the truth but cannot find it, and my explanations in this letter will help persons whom are not finding satisfactory answers in other venues.

In our time, Satan (The Devil) is launching a powerful and relentless attack against us, more so than ever before, and so I believe God's counter "attack" is in declaring truth more clearly and powerfully than ever before. When the Devil stands up to fight against God with his powerful weaponry, **GOD WILL FIGHT BACK, and WIN EVERY TIME.** Because Jesus Christ restored his Church to Joseph Smith in 1820, we are now living in "The dispensation of the fullness of times" (D&C 128:18,20; 112:30-31; 138:48; 124:41; 121:31; 27:13 Eph. 1:10;) wherein things are to be revealed which have been kept hidden from the foundation of the earth. If you think the church has merely the same run of the mill talking points to offer humanity as other contemporary Christian groups, this letter will show you that such is not the case, and that the church has a more holistic answer to life's questions, and a more glorious hope for the future of mankind, including more compassion and joy than is traditionally allowed among "Christian" groups for those who believe differently. These things offer not only a brighter future, but a more peaceful present. (See D&C 59:23; Moses 6:59)" [Latter-day Saints] don't allow premarital sex, or drugs, or theft, or pornography, or lying. ...

I like the [restored] church not because it's perfect (it's not, nor are its leaders, nor are its members), but because it seems to espouse a view of goodwill toward all men. It doesn't teach that you go to hell for not following Jesus. It doesn't teach that if a person isn't a member of the church, they go to hell. It teaches that while it believes it has solutions, it realizes that others can find happiness in their several walks of life as well, even outside

of the Mormon church. In fact it teaches that a person need not be a [Latter-day Saint] to go to heaven. It teaches that everyone will get to learn truth at some point, weather in this life or the next, and that truth will bless each person as they learn about it. It's so hard to find truth in this life! So many advertisements, so many people trying to take our money, so much deceit and avarice! [The restored church] all in all teaches that the caliber of the soul is not defined by religiosity, but by how a person treats their fellows. My favorite part about it is the belief that relationships continue in heaven. That includes friendships and marriages, etc. This isn't to say you'll need to live with a mean parent, it's to say that if people so choose, they can stay close to family. It teaches that Jesus Christ created the earth, and that he is not vengeful, but kind. It seems like God was mean in the old testament, but it's so hard to understand those events of thousands of years ago; I don't think we have all the facts; when it seems like God did something mean, I'll bet it was more like he was defending innocent people from child molesters, etc. I'll admit there are some things in the bible and Book of Mormon that I don't quite understand, that don't quite seem fair, but my observations have led me to believe that it's overall a good organization in its principles. Also, when we hear negative about the bible or the Mormon church, we must beware of gossip and slandering. I have such a passion to learn what the bible really says that I've taken up the study of the Hebrew language to get at what the real story is. I can tell you, the English version often betrays the real story! I merely am trying to say that we can be careful about these things, and seek understanding from God, our hearts, and experts rather than gossip. I think we would all like to be treated fairly, and all would like gossip to end. I am not pushy, I am not a preacher to my friends, I am a friend to my friends; part of being a friend sometimes involves telling about how you feel and your outlook on life. Should your outlook be quite different than mine, that is ok; your view is similar to mine when it comes to fundamentals of respect, civility, and delight in the human species in and of itself! I indeed believe that people are inherently good, not inherently bad! Whoever teaches otherwise is a miserable person, and will pay for the damage they have done to the human race.

...Some say 16 is too young for lasting commitment in a relationship, ... the man, would typically be the person to be a leader in such things, of asking for a marriage. There is something good about waiting until a slightly older age in our society for marriage; in old days it was not uncommon to marry by age 14; however in our society we train our children to be weak and immature, and incapable of handling the depth of responsibility that comes with marriage by that age. Frankly I think this is to some extent a mistake – persons can be in love at a young age... and thus rather than being expected to resist romance, they should be allowed to marry at a young age. I think it's ridiculous that our laws forbid such things. [note: this is not to encourage marriages between persons far apart from each other in age] However, like I said, our society trains the youth to be so weak that perhaps in the context of this society it is better this way. ...

... I know there is a big thing about making marijuana legal right now, but personally I'm against it. [I have seen it change the character of people into someone whom they are not.] I think it so powerful that I think it not a shameful idea to regulate it by force. Many of our piers and perhaps you see this differently, but I have such a deep seated hatred for it, that I cannot change my view on the subject. I know it's a plant and usually things of nature are good for us, but perhaps smoking it is not the proper use. Perhaps it should be a prescribed medical treatment, I don't know. Smoking marijuana freely, in the sense that such may be using a good thing in a bad way, might be related to how a woman's (and a man's) body is beautiful and a thing of pure nature, and thank God is given so we can experience a taste of divinity while being mere mortals; yet the woman's body, though good and of nature, is prostituted in pornography in a vicious way which undoes the purpose of it's majesty, and works toward animalistic malice rather than commitment, and thus deprives us of the deeper pleasures that could be created in sex. So I'm against pornography. Those poor girls. Those poor boys.

(and yes I believe that in heaven married persons will continue to have sex together, but with heightened pleasure; that is, unless they have been vicious with its use here on earth, then the privilege may be revoked; I also believe that people in heaven continue to have babies; I believe God is the father of our spirits, I believe God is married (heterosexual), and that is how he has us his children, by having sex. I believe sex is an eternal and divine thing that is a grand system of humanity; I believe that in heaven, married people have spirit babies with each other and send them to earths (which they have the power and pleasure of creating and governing to ensure justice and mercy are balanced in the end) so they their children can get bodies LIKE THEM and the experience needed to also become Gods. I also believe we get to keep our bodies in heaven, they are wonderful and bring much pleasure and are beautiful and good. Some think Adam and Eve sinned in having sex. No way! Sex is good. The Adam and Eve story? I think Eve is amazing! She helped Adam learn about how it's worth it to go through pain in order to have joy! I believe we EVERY HUMAN ON EARTH will come out of their graves and be made perfect, impervious to disease and aging. Getting our bodies back is a free gift from our kind God whom made us. That's a big part of the Jesus story, that he, the Son of God, "broke the bands of death", and is responsible for giving everyone their body back. Some say you'll be more free without a body. But meditation shows that we are quite capable of having larger than life experiences WHILE having bodies. So I think bodies are good. Just because we have a body in heaven doesn't mean we can't fly and teleport and move mountains; we just haven't learned how to do that stuff yet, it will come. So this little rant can show you a bit more about why I think marriage and children is so important... because it's the order of the universe... the great cycle; it is also like you said, that friendship holds up the universe, yes! The selflessness embodied in a true friend is so fundamental to anything that is good and pure enough to withstand the elements!)

... I don't blame others for not believing in the temple thing, it's a long story, and hard to believe. I wouldn't believe in it were it not for deep feelings in my heart which lead me to it. Also there

are many whom say bad things about temples, again, rumor exists, and it's too long to discuss here. Just because people marry in a temple doesn't mean they are good people, or that they will have a successful marriage, hah what a thought! As if the place of your ceremony would do that. That would be akin to assuming that a person whom has money is by default going to spend it wisely. When Megan couldn't have children it broke our hearts, and we are very pleased to now be foster parents. Life is hard for us just like anyone else, but it's also pleasant in its own ways.

Frankly Megan and I are quite excited about the future, we believe that either in this life (when Jesus comes in person and heals her and everyone), or after death (when our bodies get pulled out of the grave and become perfect), then Megan's body will not be crippled, and there won't be any pain; we will still have bodies, but they will be made incorruptible. We believe Jesus is going to come to earth to be the king of it, yes, even for a thousand years (we believe he has the right to be king of earth because he created earth). We believe the wicked (child molesters , murderers) will be burned at the time of Jesus' coming (for evil cannot stand being in the presence of such good), BUT we do not believe that "non-religious" people will be destroyed! We believe as long as you don't want to kill others, that's the main requirement to "getting along" with Jesus. We believe Jesus will save us from oppressions of all kinds, and that this will be an era of peace. We believe there will be no physical death at this time (the thousand-year rule of Jesus on earth aka Millennium), and thus sorrow will go away. We believe Jesus will make earth into a heaven! We believe Jesus will settle things that have been mysterious for such a long time, like how the universe was created, and what truth is (it's so hard to find! We believe he will IN PERSON help us with that hard thing. What a relief!). In summary of this paragraph, Megan and I deal with how hard this life is largely by our hope for a better time to come in the NEAR future. And we mean near. I can taste it, it's almost here. The pain level is about to burst; indeed it is bursting and our hearts are dying, now alas, the relief is at the door! Weep for joy! Though our creator has left us here a while so we can grow, he has not forgotten us, and SOON comes for

us! And when I say “us” I don’t mean Mormons, I mean every human with a good heart. And I ABSOLUTELY mean you. And if you prefer to not call him Jesus, you can call him something else, though I do believe this will be the name he presents to us when he comes to deliver us and finally bring peace on earth. Yes, I don’t only believe peace on earth will come, my whole psychology revolves around it, and hangs on it, weeping daily, holding on only for her sake. Building things in the confidence that they will not be utterly destroyed by growing evil forces, trusting that surely as I live victory will absolutely be ours (the good guys) at last.

I also note that I believe in Jesus, but I can understand when others don’t. People have done evil things in the name of Christianity. The crusades, killing people in the name of Jesus? Heresy! That was evil. Then we have other episodes also the Catholic church, allowing people to indulge in sin if they pay money to a priest. Pure evil! Or we have the many types of Christians today, Protestants etc., all paying money to their preachers, hearing fair promises that are void of power, hearing doctrines that are only half way true, and a different story on each corner.

In defense of [the Latter-day Saints], I think a lot of people’s biggest buff about it is being abused by a bishop or bad council from a bishop, or a dad with “the priesthood” (as if), using that in a treacherous controlling way, pulling rank, “well I have the priesthood so do it/ so I’m right!” no no. or that some may think Mormons are “exclusive” not inclusive; these are tough issues, and plenty of gossip to go with them, and plenty of background information required to explain the various policies of the church. But a few sentences on these things... abusive people are everywhere, in and outside of Mormonism. The church net catches all sorts of fish, some of them bad (mean) ones. So far as inclusiveness stuff, that one takes longer to explain, but I say it is inclusive, and you can ask me about that later if you like. I’m not saying I’m a latter-day saint because it’s perfect; I’m saying I am because I believe it’s of Jesus. I believe God personally came down from heaven and anointed Joseph

Smith as a prophet, and that God is using the [restored] church to help people, even if the people in the church aren't perfect, even mean in some cases. I believe the restored church will help save vast numbers of people the time gets closer to the personal reign of Jesus on earth. I believe the restored church is in fact lead by Jesus Christ, and that it is the only church on the face of the earth fully sanctioned by Jesus. Of course Jesus is not happy with sinners in the Mormon church, but I say he is using that church to do a marvelous work which has only begun.

Sometimes it's hard to understand church policies, but we also have to remember that if there is a God, some being with perfect experience whom is trying to reach out to his creations, on some planet which has overcome the issues we are currently working on, I say if there is such a being, I think there is room for the possibility that we might not understand why he does things the way he does, similar to how a child doesn't always understand the ways its parent uses. In saying this I'm not excusing [the church] from tyranny, no way.... But I do believe that the president of the church is legit, and Gods anointed mouthpiece on earth to direct us wandering mortals in important issues.

One of the main things people hate about it is its history of polygamy. Its purpose was to help the needy, to give marriage to those who sought it (thus bypassing the selfish men who refuse to marry) and to let an increased about of children be born into loving homes rather than abusive homes.

I believe God is patient with people... He is so patient. There may be something in your life that you aren't all the way happy with deep inside, but it'll be ok, it'll all work out. Follow your heart to know when to act and how. I know even bringing up the word God is a controversy, you might rewrite that with "the spirit of the universe" or something more accommodating to your experience with the divine, the beauty. I'm so sorry if these things are not pleasant for me to say to you. Perhaps it was better for me to hold my tongue. Forgive me if this was the case. ...

...I, on behalf of the males of our society, cordially apologize to you that we men are [often] such idiots, and so unwilling to marry a woman. Many women live single unmarried lives because the men are chickens. I fully confess [my opinion] that men are more often the problem than women. The men are often greedy and don't want to share their resources, or invest in things without immediate pleasure, unwilling to have needed pain. Fools! They are selling their souls for a mess of pottage when they could have so much more with a little bit of manliness!

I do recognize that some women feel they don't want to be "trapped" in a marriage, and think marriage hostile and unequal to them; indeed, men have a long-standing history of mistreating their wives, and not treating them as EQUAL PARTNERS IN ALL THINGS, IN ALL DECISION MAKING, IN ALL LEADERSHIP etc. I despise men who treat women unfairly, and if there is a hell, the abusive demeaning unfair husband is the prime candidate for such a place. In this regard, I am a whole-hearted feminist. I do feel however, that many women would like to marry, but can't find a man with enough courage. I weep for women; their lot is so hard in this regard. I feel to rebuke my sex for their intolerable heartlessness. I will be blunt with you: I think a man whom uses a woman for sex then leaves without marrying her is selfish and tyrannical. Ignorant and debase. Sex is the symbol that says, "I will unite with you in all things, even my flesh itself will witness to you that WE ARE ONE." And that means forever. Just like how the body of a person has several parts which work together to help it survive, so can be man and woman; the combination of male and female, them being one, is necessary for the survival of the human race. A person could argue in favor of test tube babies, and artificial insemination, and while these have a place, they are dangerous in that they are getting away from nature. If we leave nature, I don't think we can expect to survive as a species. And we are too beautiful to let our species die! This being said, I respect homosexuals, they are often doing the best they can. While I don't think their relationship is going to be as fulfilling and lasting as a heterosexual (I would say natural, of nature) relationship, I do not seek to do them any harm. While I don't think it's fair for

homosexual parents to raise children for the above reasons (children needing a male and female biological parent as studies have shown to be better for the children), I also won't deny them a shelter overhead, and to share my bread with me. Perhaps I am a little off on some of these views, but I'm doing my best, and feel quite strongly about these things. I know this is a subject of controversy today, and I express my apologies if I have not been gracious enough. I have attempted to defend all persons, but that gets complicated. A mere anything goes outlook doesn't seem to suffice when it comes to laws about forcing people to cater to each other in sensitive areas; but alas, I don't wish to get into those things here today; I've already gone into far greater detail than I had thought I would. May you have mercy on me if you have identified some large fault with me. May you find friendship and dignity in me despite my not being on neutral territory on some of these issues. I recognize that same sex attraction is real, that some people are born with it, and it is a complex issue that would require much more discourse than I have provided here....

... If you have a different opinion than me on these things, I repeat that I still want to be your friend! I have an overwhelming desire to see you happy. Our culture is quite diversified, and views on sex and marriage differ greatly; I do not know your feelings on these matters, but I wish to respect them whatever they are. Your gentleness and kindness has earned my respect. May that never be forgotten... a beautiful thing about life is diversity, and a divine thing about life is having close friends whom see things differently than ourselves.

...[here by these explanations I show] you that I'm not some wierdo puritan without a heart. There are more than one way to live this life with beauty. I hope you understand.

... I wrote of religion in it not to try and change you or to suggest that you are incomplete, I merely wrote that to show you me.

...I will be sending positive thoughts into the universe about you, and pushing karma your way, and whatever else I can do to bless you.

Temple Marriage Importance: Teachings of the Prophets (seperate paragraphs)

Introductory Note: The core of this document is the words of the prophets on temple marriage, but allow me a short narrative of my own thought as well:

Alma 39:11 A fornicator risky woman saying she will be your friend or lover is sent from the devil. There are healthy relationships, but the relationship with one who wants necking or petting and other tyrannical deeds, is from the devil, and is a servant of him. This woman, then, is a counterfeit of what could be good beautiful and eternal, but won't be. So if you love this woman (you should love everyone), then tell her that you won't be her man unless she changes her standards. Another example of this type narrative is a story of courage wherein a woman was engaged to a man, and then found out he was addicted to pornography. She straightway canceled the engagement, and told him that she would not marry him until he had gotten rid of that addiction. **SHE WAS NOT GOING TO ALLOW THE DEVIL INTO HER HOME, THAT MOST INTIMATE OF PLACES.** No, there was no place for negotiating at the table of her enemy! She was not going to walk into a snare of ten thousand serpents! This was not an act of cruelty, but of Christianity. She was telling the boy, "that is **UNACCEPTABLE** and it's demeaning to me and you to give you the message that I think such is acceptable." 2 years went by, and this boy had still not overcome the addiction. She found another boy without such, and is happily married in the temple. There could have been no temple marriage with the first boy, and to her, that is **ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE!** (This story can be found in "The Elephant in the Room", a book against pornography). Yes, as a child of

God you deserve more than to be married outside of the temple. If you think no one will marry you in the temple whom you are interested in romantically, then **GET SOME FAITH IN THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD JESUS CHRIST. HAS HE NOT PROMISED HIS GOODNESS TO YOU? HAS HE NOT COVENANTED WITH YOU THAT HE WILL PROVIDE? YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED, AND YOU HAVE AN ETERNAL COVENANT WITH DIETY THAT HE SHALL EXALT YOU AS YOU ARE FAITHFUL AND TRUE IN ALL THINGS. DON'T MESS AROUND WITH ETERNITY.** Quit playing games. This is the big leagues. Welcome to the hall of masters and champions, of Gods and eternities. Don't mess this one up. This is what marriage is all about. So get married, and do it in the temple, and **LOVE EACH OTHER!** Do this one thing with your life you unworthy creatures. You are always unworthy (Alma 38:14), do this thing right. Of the many things this life has to offer, don't mess this one up. **HOLY GOD** would have you exalted if you'll just quit being so selfish and faithless, and **LIVE THE COVENANT.** Eternities on end, yea forever, you'll be glad that you did. And if it means you have to leave behind some non-temple marriage interested person, then you'll end up being a blessing to the soul of that person more so than a whole life of marriage with them could give. **RISE UP** Oh Israel, and do the works of your father Abraham! If letting go of a non-temple marriage is hard to you as it was for Abraham to slay his son, **DO IT.** Like him, **PASS THE TEST.** Joseph Smith has taught that for exaltation, at some point or another, we will all have to pass a test comparable to Abrahams. Take courage. This is the leap of faith. Don't back down, ye who have been held in reserve across the millennia for this special time in the last days. No one said that the last days would be easy. Also if you don't find a spouse in this lifetime who will marry you in the temple, **KNOW**, and I mean **KNOW**, that you'll have one in the eternal world. This life is a blink of an eye compared to eternity. Believe ye the words of Jehovah, trust his commands, he is the one who gave you life, now let him give you eternal life by obeying him. In his holy name these things are said. Jesus Christ is the king of Glory. Marriage is a glorious thing. He is the king of marriage. If you want a happily ever after marriage, do it His way. In case I

need to be any more blunt, I tell you: His way is the temple. This is the ordained and covenant way, set up from before the foundation of this, OR ANY OTHER millions of worlds he has created.

-4 Nephi 1:11 Once you marry in the covenant, you get access to the multitude of the blessings of the Lord. So you who are not married, look forward to that day with great expectation! Don't log it into your "once college is done, once I have x amount of money, once I develop x skill" category. That's doing it backward! Marriage is to support refine test gladden and exalt you through the process of those developments! Don't live beneath your privileges! With a little bit of faith and sacrifice, you can have your family and your career. neither the woman without the man, in the Lord: 1 Cor. 11:11 . I will make him an help meet for him: Gen. 2:18 . (Moses 3:18 ; Abr. 5:14 .) shall cleave unto his wife: Gen. 2:24 . (Matt. 19:5 ; Mark 10:7 ; Eph. 5:31 ; Moses 3:24 ; Abr. 5:18 .) thy desire shall be to thy husband: Gen. 3:16 . (Moses 4:22 .) take a wife: Gen. 24:4 . surely endow her to be his wife: Ex. 22:16 . (Deut. 22:29 .) virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: Prov. 12:4 . (Prov. 31:10 .) wives shall give to their husbands honour: Esth. 1:20 . rejoice with the wife of thy youth: Prov. 5:18 . Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing: Prov. 18:22 . prudent wife is from the Lord: Prov. 19:14 .

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest: Eccl. 9:9 . a wife treacherously departeth from her husband: Jer. 3:20 (don't divorce and especially don't make cause for such). let every man have his own wife: 1 Cor. 7:2 . unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife: 1 Cor. 7:14 . He that loveth his wife loveth himself: Eph. 5:28 . I will therefore that the younger women marry: 1 Tim. 5:14 .

teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands: Titus 2:4 . his sons should take daughters to wife: 1 Ne. 7:1 . • sacred support which we owe to our wives: Alma 44:5 .

In memory of our ... wives, and our children: Alma 46:12 . preparing to support their liberty ... their wives: Alma 48:10 . (Alma 48:10–11 .)

Pray ... that your wives and your children may be blessed: 3 Ne.

18:21 .

thy calling shall be for a comfort unto ... thy husband: D&C 25:5 . (D&C 25:13–15 .)

Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart: D&C 42:22 .

it is lawful that he should have one wife: D&C 49:16 .

if a man marry a wife by my word: D&C 132:19 .

-“We have trespassed ... have taken strange wives”: Ezra 10:2 . (Ezra 10:10 .) This means don’t marry outside of the covenant, outside of the religion, outside of the temple.

-“Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan”: Gen. 28:1 . This means don’t marry outside of the covenant, outside of the religion, outside of the temple.

-“The question is frequently asked: Should every young man fill a mission? And the answer has been given by the Lord. It is ‘Yes.’ Every young man should fill a mission. ...

“... Every man should also pay his tithing. Every man should observe the Sabbath. Every man should attend his meetings. Every man should marry in the temple” (President Spencer W. Kimball, “When the World Will Be Converted,” Ensign, Oct. 1974, p. 8).

-“You will clearly perceive, from the revelation which God has given, that you can never obtain a fulness of glory, without being married to a righteous man for time and for all eternity. If you marry a man who receives not the gospel, you lay a foundation for sorrow in this world, besides losing the privilege of enjoying the society of a husband in eternity. You forfeit your right to an endless increase of immortal lives. And even the children which you may be favoured with in this life, will not be entrusted to your charge in eternity, but you will be left in that world without a husband, without a family, without a kingdom, without any means of enlarging yourselves, being subject to the principalities and powers who are counted worthy of families, and kingdoms, and thrones, and the increase of dominions forever. To them you will be servants and angels—that is, provided that your conduct should be such as to secure this measure of glory. Can it be possible that any females, after knowing these things, will suffer themselves to keep company with persons out of this Church?

It matters not how great the morality of such persons may be, nor how kind they may be to you, they are not numbered with the people of God; they are not in the way of salvation, they cannot save themselves nor their families, and after what God has revealed upon this subject, you cannot be justified, for one moment, in keeping their company. It would be infinitely better for you to suffer poverty and tribulation with the people of God, than to place yourselves under the power of those who will not embrace the great truth of heaven. By marrying an unbeliever, you place yourselves in open disobedience to the command of God requiring his people to gather together. Do you expect to be saved in direct violation of the command of heaven?" (Elder Orson Pratt, *Millennial Star*, XV: 584).

-“How is it with you, sisters? Do you distinguish between a man of God and a man of the world? It is one of the strangest things that happens in my existence, to think that any man or woman can love a being that will not receive the truth of heaven. The love this gospel produces is far above the love of women; it is the love of God—the love of eternity—of eternal lives.”

(Discourses of Brigham Young, pp. 195-197, 1934 edition)

-“I would rather go myself to the grave than to be associated with a wife outside of the bonds of the new and everlasting covenant. Now, I hold it just so sacred; but some members of the Church do not so regard the matter. Some people feel that it does not make very much difference whether a girl marries a man in the Church, full of the faith of the gospel, or an unbeliever. Some of our young people have married outside of the Church; but very few of those who have done it have failed to come to grief. I would like to see Latter-day Saint men marry Latter-day Saint women; and Methodists marry Methodists, Catholics marry Catholics; and Presbyterians marry Presbyterians, and so on to the limit. Let them keep within the pale of their own faith and church, and marry and intermarry there, and let the Latter-day Saints do the same thing in their Church. Then we will see who comes out best in the end.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, p. 380, 1919 edition)

-“I want to call your attention to the fact that a great many of our beautiful girls and our fine young men that have been born under the covenant are being married out of the Church and out of the

temple of God. Furthermore, I have discovered by reading the newspapers that the parents of many of these young people seem to rejoice in it, and so they put big articles and fine pictures in the papers in regard to the entertainments, the receptions, that are going to be given, and they seem to be very proud of the fact that their daughters are to be married or their sons are to be married and they are going to be married by some minister of some other church, maybe by a bishop of this Church who can only marry them for time—he cannot marry them for eternity—and they seem to be happy about it. I do not know how they can, in the face of all that the Lord has revealed. For every contract, every bond, every covenant that is made that is not according to the Lord's will and commandment, and enforced by his law will of necessity come to an end (D&C 132:7). These young people who seem to be so happy now, when they rise in the resurrection, and find themselves in the condition in which they will find themselves, then there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, bitterness of soul, and they have brought it upon themselves because of their lack of faith and understanding of the gospel, and from, I am sorry to say, the encouragement they have received many times from their own parents.

I am quite satisfied in my own mind that the parents are not teaching their children in the home the importance of marriage as the Lord has revealed it. Out in the world they have a false notion about marriage, because they have not the guidance of the Holy Ghost, and they cannot understand and properly interpret the scriptures. The first marriage that was ever performed in this world, that is on this earth, let me say; not in this world, but on this earth—was performed before there was any death. What the Lord said in answering the question of the Jews: . . . What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (Matt. 19:6), means nothing more nor less than this: that where God joins in marriage, man cannot put it asunder. And the Lord never does anything just for time. Everything is for eternity. . . . To those who are satisfied with a marriage for time only, I want to raise a warning voice, to both parents and to the children who have that sort of idea. Of course there are people who are not worthy to go to the temple, and therefore should not go to the temple. No one should go to the temple except those who are

worthy, as the Lord has said, “who have overcome by faith,” and are cleansed and are just and true (D&C 76:53). Then they can go to the temple. If they are unclean, if they lack the faith, they had better stay out until they get the faith and are clean.” (Joseph Fielding Smith, Conference Report, October 1946, pp. 35-39) (<http://scriptures.byu.edu/gettalk.php?ID=253>)

-“ Those other classes I have mentioned have neglected the new and everlasting covenant of marriage: They cannot inherit this glory and these kingdoms—they cannot be crowned in the celestial world. What purpose will they serve? They will be sent on errands—be sent to other worlds as missionaries to minister, they will be sent on whatever business the Lord sees proper; in other words, they will be servants. To whom will they be servants? To those who have obeyed and remained faithful to the new and everlasting covenant, and have been exalted to thrones; to those who have covenanted before God with wives so that they may raise up and multiply immortal intelligent beings through all the ages of eternity. Here is the distinction of classes, but all of the same glory, called celestial glory.” (Orson Pratt, JD 15:321-322. Jan. 19, 1873)

(http://en.fairmormon.org/Journal_of_Discourses/15/39)

-“ 9 Will I accept of an offering, saith the Lord, that is not made in my name?

10 Or will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed?

11 And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord, except it be by law, even as I and my Father ordained unto you, before the world was?

12 I am the Lord thy God; and I give unto you this commandment—that no man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord.

13 And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God.

14 For whatsoever things remain are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed.

15 Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world.

16 Therefore, when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are appointed angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.

17 For these angels did not abide my law; therefore, they cannot be enlarged, but remain separately and singly, without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity; and from henceforth are not gods, but are angels of God forever and ever.” (D&C 132:9-17)

-“The family is the most important organization in time or in eternity. Our purpose in life is to create for ourselves eternal family units. There is nothing that will ever come into your family life that is as important as the sealing blessings of the temple and then keeping the covenants made in connection with this order of celestial marriage” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1972, 13; or Ensign, July 1972, 27). (Eternal Marriage and Family student Manual of the Church on page 14 see https://www.lds.org/bc/content/shared/content/english/pdf/language-materials/35311_eng.pdf)

-“Members of the Church believe that marriages performed in temples are “sealed,” or blessed to last for eternity. The concept that the family unit can continue beyond the grave as a conscious, loving entity, with the marriage partnership and parent-child relationships intact, is a core belief of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Once a couple is married and sealed in a temple, any children who are then born to them are automatically sealed to them at birth. If children are born before the couple is sealed, those children can later participate in a temple sealing with their parents. Children that are adopted also have an opportunity to be sealed to the adoptive parents.

The concept of eternal families comes from scripture and modern-day revelation. For instance, the New Testament reference in Matthew 16:19 records Jesus Christ telling the Apostle Peter: “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” The Church equates the word “bind” with “seal.”

According to research cited in a 2000 article in the Los Angeles Times, “in an era of divorce, Mormon temple weddings are built to last,” with only a 6 percent divorce rate. Another study, published in 1993 in Demography Magazine, concluded that members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who marry in one of the Church’s temples are the least likely of all Americans to divorce.”

(<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/temple-marriage>)

–“Marriage. . . is the most glorious and most exalting principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ. No ordinance is of more importance and none more sacred and more necessary to the eternal joy of man. Faithfulness to the marriage covenant brings the fullest joy here and glorious rewards hereafter.” (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [1988], 533–34)

–At the creation of man and woman, unity for them in marriage was not given as hope; it was a command! ‘Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:24). (Elder Henry B Eyring

-Our Heavenly Father wants our hearts to be knit together. That union in love is not simply an ideal. It is a necessity (Elder Henry B. Eyring Ensign, May 1998, 66).

–Happiness in marriage and parenthood can exceed a thousand times any other happiness (Elder James E Faust Ensign, Nov. 1977, 11)

–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 through eternity (President Gordon B. Hinckley quoted in “Graduates Receive Challenge from Prophet,” Church News, 6 May 1995, 11).

–“Soul mates” are fiction and an illusion; and while every young man and young woman will seek with all diligence and prayerfulness to find a mate with whom life can be most compatible and beautiful, yet it is certain that almost any good man and any good woman can have happiness and a successful marriage if both are willing to pay the price (President Spencer W. Kimball Devotional address given at Brigham Young University on September 7, 1976, found at <http://speeches.byu.edu/>).

–President David O. McKay (1873–1970) observed that too many couples come to “marriage looking upon the marriage ceremony as the end of courtship instead of the beginning of an eternal courtship. ... Love can be starved to death as literally as the body that receives no sustenance. Love feeds upon kindness and courtesy” (Man May Know for Himself: Teachings of President David O. McKay, compiled by Clare Middlemiss [1967], 289).

–[The Lord] has indicated that the greatest work we parents can do is performed in our homes, and our homes can be heaven, particularly when our marriages are sealed in the house of God. (President Thomas S. Monson “Blessings of the Temple,” Ensign, October 2010)

–Marriage is the foundry for social order, the fountain of virtue, and the foundation for eternal exaltation. Marriage has been divinely designated as an eternal and everlasting covenant. Marriage is sanctified when it is cherished and honored in holiness. That union is not merely between husband and wife; it embraces a partnership with God. (Elder Russel M Nelson “Nurturing Marriage,” Ensign, May 2006, 36)

–“The lawful association of the sexes is ordained of God, not only as the sole means of race perpetuation, but for the development of the higher faculties and nobler traits of human nature, which the love inspired companionship of man and woman alone can insure” (President Joseph Fielding Smith “Unchastity the Dominant Evil of the Age,” Improvement Era, June 1917, 739).

–“Marriage is perhaps the most vital of all the decisions and has the most far-reaching effects, for it has to do not only with immediate happiness, but also with eternal joys. It affects not

only the two people involved, but also their families and particularly their children and their children's children down through the many generations" (President Spencer W Kimball "Oneness in Marriage," Ensign, Mar. 1977, 3).

—"This will be the most important decision of your life, the individual whom you marry. ...

"... Marry the right person in the right place at the right time" (President Gordon B. Hinckley

"Life's Obligations," Ensign, Feb. 1999, 2).

—"The most important things that any member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ever does in this world are: 1. To marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority; and 2. To keep the covenant made in connection with this holy and perfect order of matrimony" (Elder Bruce R. McConkie

Mormon Doctrine, 118).

-“Honorable marriage is approved of the Lord. Indeed, the scriptures teach that “marriage is ordained of God” for His children (D&C 49:15), and also “whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever.” (Eccl. 3:14.) His way of everlasting marriage is filled with hope and promise, and is designed to lead to happiness here and to an eternal stewardship like that of God himself... Wonderful promises are sealed upon a man and woman in temple marriage, and the realization of the promised blessings is related directly to their understanding and keeping the solemn commitments they make to each other and the Lord... No one should be unwise enough to count on an across-the-crowded-room romanticized live-happily-ever-after marriage made without proper thoughtfulness, preparation, and prayer. Marriage is an everyday and every-way relationship in which honesty and character and shared convictions and objectives and views about finances and family and life-style are more important than moonlight and music and an attractive profile... The surest basis for all of this is to be worthily married in the temple. But temple marriage is not an isolated ordinance. It serves both as a culmination of other ordinances and the foundation for family and the eternal future... Two who desire an eternal marriage cannot establish that relationship until each has personally made sacred covenants with the Lord. These

covenants center in principles that are basic in a truly Christian life and in the foundation of a good marriage and family...In the temple we make commitments to follow Him in doing God's will and keeping His commandments, in valuing others and in unselfishly serving, in loving God and our fellowmen....So wherever we are with respect to marriage—years from it, close to it, or deeply committed in it—we must be wise, be faithful to the commandments of God, be true. Marriage is the closest and most intimate relationship one makes in this life, and the most serious and sacred decision. If you haven't been to the Lord's house, get ready, be clean, prepare to come to establish the foundation for a special, happy, eternal marriage...Parley P. Pratt said after he met the Prophet in Philadelphia that "it was from him that I learned that the wife of my bosom might be secured to me for time and all eternity; and that the refined sympathies and affections which endeared us to each other emanated from the foundation of divine eternal love. It was from the Prophet that I learned that we might cultivate these affections, and grow and increase in the same to all eternity." (Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1938, pp. 297–98.)...We are grateful to know that our family will relate with us eternally, even as we will with those who gave us mortal life, and all of us together will find a loving place ultimately and a continuing relationship under the holy influence of Him whose spirit children we are and of Him whose holy sacrifice brought us the blessings of eternal life. Of this I testify, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen." (Elder Marion D. Hanks Conf. Report

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1984/10/eternal-marriage?lang=eng&query=temple+marriage>)

-“It [eternal marriage] is without beginning of days or end of years. ... We can tell some things with regard to it; it lays the foundation for worlds, for angels, and for the Gods; for intelligent beings to be crowned with glory, immortality, and eternal lives. In fact, it is the thread which runs from the beginning to the end of the holy Gospel of Salvation—of the Gospel of the Son of God; it is from eternity to eternity” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage

<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>(Brigham Young DBY, 195).)

-“We find quite a large number of young people who have arrived at a marriageable age and still they remain single. . . . Our young men and women should consider their obligations to each other, to God, the earth, their parents, and to future generations for their salvation and exaltation among the Gods and for the glory of Him whom we serve” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng> (DNSW, 25 Oct. 1870, 2).)

-“I will give each of the young men in Israel, who have arrived at an age to marry, a mission to go straightway and get married to a good sister, fence a city lot, lay out garden and orchard and make a home. This is the mission that I give to all young men in Israel (DBY, 196).” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>)

-“There is not a young man in our community who would not be willing to travel from here to England to be married right, if he understood things as they are; there is not a young woman in our community, who loves the Gospel and wishes its blessings, that would be married in any other way; they would live unmarried until they could be married as they should be, [even] if they lived until they were as old as Sarah before she had Isaac born to her [see Genesis 17:17]. Many of our brethren have married off their children without taking this into consideration, and thinking it a matter of little importance. I wish we all understood this in the light in which heaven understands it (DBY, 195–96).”

(Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>)

-“One of the first transgressions of the family called Israel, was their going to other families or other nations to select partners. This was one of the great mistakes made by the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, for they would go and marry with other families, although the Lord had forbidden them to do so,

and had given them a very strict and stringent law on the subject [see Genesis 28:1–2]. He commanded them not to marry among the Gentiles, but they did and would do it [see Genesis 24:3] (DBY, 196).” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>)

–“Be careful, O ye mothers of Israel, and do not teach your daughters in future, as many of them have been taught, to marry out of Israel. Woe to you who do it; you will lose your crowns as sure as God lives (DBY, 196).” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>)

–“There are multitudes of pure and holy spirits waiting to take tabernacles, now what is our duty? ... It is the duty of every righteous man and woman to prepare tabernacles for all the spirits they can (DBY, 197).” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>)

–“Now let me say to the First Presidency, to the Apostles, to all the Bishops in Israel, and to every quorum, and especially to those who are presiding officers, set that example before your [wife] and your children, before your neighbors and this people, that you can say: “Follow me, as I follow Christ.” When we do this, all is right, and our consciences are clear (DBY, 198).” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>)

–“Let the husband and father learn to bend his will to the will of his God, and then instruct his [wife] and children in this lesson of self-government by his example as well as by precept, and his neighbors also, showing them how to be brave and steadfast, in subduing the rebellious and sinful disposition. Such a course as this will eventually subdue that unhallowed influence which works upon the human heart (DBY, 198).” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and

Everlasting Covenant of Marriage

<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>

-“If we do not take the pains to train our children, to teach and instruct them concerning these revealed truths, the condemnation will be upon us, as parents, or at least in a measure (DBY, 207).” (Teachings of the Prophet Brigham Young Ch. 23 Understanding the New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage

<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-23?lang=eng>)

-“The difficulties and hazards of marriage are greatly increased where backgrounds are different” (Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, 302). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“I have warned the youth against the many hazards of interfaith marriage, and with all the power I possessed, I warned young people to avoid the sorrows and disillusionments which come from marrying out of the Church and the unhappy situations which almost invariably result when a believer marries an unbelieving spouse. I pointed out the demands of the Church upon its members in time, energy, and funds; the deepness of the spiritual ties which tighten after marriage and as the family comes; the antagonisms which naturally follow such mismating; the fact that these and many other reasons argue eloquently for marriage within the Church, where husband and wife have common backgrounds, common ideals and standards, common beliefs, hopes, and objectives, and, above all, where marriage may be eternalized through righteous entry into the holy temple.

...

“... We recommend that people marry those who are of ... somewhat the same economic and social and educational background (some of those are not an absolute necessity, but preferred), and above all, the same religious background, without question” (“Marriage and Divorce,” 142–44).

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“There is no substitute for marrying in the temple. It is the only place under the heavens where marriage can be solemnized for eternity. Don’t cheat yourself. Don’t cheat your companion.

Don't shortchange your lives. Marry the right person in the right place at the right time.

"Choose a companion of your own faith. You are much more likely to be happy. Choose a companion you can always honor, you can always respect, one who will complement you in your own life, one to whom you can give your entire heart, your entire love, your entire allegiance, your entire loyalty. ...

"... I could not wish for any of you more than I have had in my companionship with my beautiful wife.

"A good marriage requires time. It requires effort. You have to work at it. You have to cultivate it. You have to forgive and forget. You have to be absolutely loyal one to another. Most of you will marry and have children. They will become the source of your greatest pride and happiness. ...

"All of this can come to pass if you make this most important decision, one guided by prayer as well as instinct, of choosing a dear companion who will be yours through thick and thin forever, throughout all eternity" (President Gordon B. Hinckley "Life's Obligations," Ensign, Feb. 1999, 2,

4).(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“The right person is someone for whom the natural and wholesome and normal affection that should exist does exist. It is the person who is living so that he or she can go to the temple of God and make the covenants that we there make” (Elder Bruce R. McConkie in Conference Report, Sept.–Oct. 1955, 13).(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“There is more to a foundation of eternal marriage than a pretty face or an attractive figure. There is more to consider than popularity or charisma. As you seek an eternal companion, look for someone who is developing the essential attributes that bring happiness: a deep love of the Lord and of His commandments, a determination to live them, one that is kindly understanding, forgiving of others, and willing to give of self, with the desire to have a family crowned with beautiful children and a commitment to teach them the principles of truth in the home. “An essential priority of a prospective wife is the desire to be a wife and mother. She should be developing the sacred qualities

that God has given His daughters to excel as a wife and mother: patience, kindness, a love of children, and a desire to care for them rather than seeking professional pursuits. She should be acquiring a good education to prepare for the demands of motherhood.

“A prospective husband should also honor his priesthood and use it in service to others. Seek a man who accepts his role as provider of the necessities of life, has the capacity to do it, and is making concerted efforts to prepare himself to fulfill those responsibilities.

“I suggest that you not ignore many possible candidates who are still developing these attributes, seeking the one who is perfected in them. You will likely not find that perfect person, and if you did, there would certainly be no interest in you. These attributes are best polished together as husband and wife” (Elder Richard G. Scott in Conference Report, Apr. 1999, 31; or Ensign, May 1999, 26). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“When the daughters of Zion are asked by the young men to join with them in marriage, instead of asking—‘Has this man a fine brick house, a span of fine horses and a fine carriage?’ they should ask—‘Is he a man of God? Has he the Spirit of God with him? Is he a Latter-day Saint? Does he pray? Has he got the Spirit upon him to qualify him to build up the kingdom?’ If he has that, never mind the carriage and brick house, take hold and unite yourselves together according to the law of God” (in Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, 271).

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“Dear sisters, never lose sight of this sacred goal [of a temple marriage]. Prayerfully prepare for it and live for it. Be married the Lord’s way. Temple marriage is a gospel ordinance of exaltation. Our Father in Heaven wants each of His daughters to have this eternal blessing.

“Therefore, don’t trifle away your happiness by involvement with someone who cannot take you worthily to the temple. Make a decision now that this is the place where you will marry. To leave that decision until a romantic involvement develops is to

take a risk the importance of which you cannot now fully calculate.

“And remember, you are not required to lower your standards in order to get a mate. Keep yourselves attractive, maintain high standards, maintain your self-respect. Do not engage in intimacies that bring heartache and sorrow. Place yourselves in a position to meet worthy men and be engaged in constructive activities.

“But also, do not expect perfection in your choice of a mate. Do not be so concerned about his physical appearance and his bank account that you overlook his more important qualities. Of course, he should be attractive to you, and he should be able to financially provide for you. But, does he have a strong testimony? Does he live the principles of the gospel and magnify his priesthood? Is he active in his ward and stake? Does he love home and family, and will he be a faithful husband and a good father? These are qualities that really matter.

“And I would also caution you single sisters not to become so independent and self-reliant that you decide marriage isn’t worth it and you can do just as well on your own. Some of our sisters indicate that they do not want to consider marriage until after they have completed their degrees or pursued a career. This is not right. Certainly we want our single sisters to maximize their individual potential, to be well educated, and to do well at their present employment. You have much to contribute to society, to your community, and to your neighborhood. But we earnestly pray that our single sisters will desire honorable marriage in the temple to a worthy man and rear a righteous family, even though this may mean the sacrificing of degrees and careers. Our priorities are right when we realize there is no higher calling than to be an honorable wife and mother” (President Ezra Taft Benson “To the Single Adult Sisters of the Church,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 96–97). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“Honorable marriage is more important than wealth, position, and status. As husband and wife, you can achieve your life’s goals together. As you sacrifice for each other and your children, the Lord will bless you, and your commitment to the Lord and your service in His kingdom will be enhanced” (President Ezra

Taft Benson in Conference Report, Apr. 1988, 59; or Ensign, May 1988, 53). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“I hope you will not put off marriage too long. I do not speak as much to the young women as to the young men whose prerogative and responsibility it is to take the lead in this matter. Don’t go on endlessly in a frivolous dating game. Look for a choice companion, one you can love, honor, and respect, and make a decision” (President Gordon B. Hinckley “Thou Shalt Not Covet,” Ensign, Mar. 1990,

6).(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“Use both agency and prayer. It is not, never has been, and never will be the design and purpose of the Lord—however much we seek him in prayer—to answer all our problems and concerns without struggle and effort on our part. This mortality is a probationary estate. In it we have our agency. We are being tested to see how we will respond in various situations; how we will decide issues; what course we will pursue while we are here walking, not by sight, but by faith. Hence, we are to solve our own problems and then to counsel with the Lord in prayer and receive a spiritual confirmation that our decisions are correct” (Elder Bruce R. McConkie “Why the Lord Ordained Prayer,” Ensign, Jan. 1976, 11).(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“... When a choice will make a real difference in our lives—obvious or not—and when we are living in tune with the Spirit and seeking his guidance, we can be sure we will receive the guidance we need to attain our goal” (Elder Dallin H. Oaks “Revelation,” 25–26). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“We have no scriptural justification, however, for the belief that we had the privilege of choosing our parents and our life companions in the spirit world. This belief has been advocated by some, and it is possible that in some instances it is true, but it would require too great a stretch of the imagination to believe it to be so in all, or even in the majority of cases. Most likely we came where those in authority decided to send us. Our agency may not have been exercised to the extent of making choice of

parents and posterity” (Elder Joseph Fielding Smith Way to Perfection, 44). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“It does not matter if it interrupts your schooling or delays your career or your marriage—or basketball. Unless you have a serious health problem, every Latter-day Saint young man should answer the call to serve a mission” (Elder Boyd K. Packer in Conference Report, Apr. 1984, 61; or Ensign, May 1984, 42). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“There is increasing evidence that some young women are being strongly encouraged to serve full-time missions. Though capable and effective, young women do not have the same responsibility to serve full-time missions as do young men who hold the priesthood. We are grateful that some desire to serve as full-time missionaries, but they should not be made to feel obligated to do so. A young woman should not be recommended for a mission if it would interfere with a specific marriage proposal” (Church Bulletin, 1993, no. 2, p. 2).

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

–“I am not trying to urge you younger men to marry too early. I think therein is one of the hazards of today’s living. We don’t want a young man to think of marriage until he is able to take care of a family, to have an institution of his own, to be independent. He must make sure that he has found the girl of his choice, they have gone together long enough that they know each other, and that they know each other’s faults and they still love each other. I have said to the mission presidents (some of whom have been reported to us as saying to missionaries, ‘Now, if you are not married in six months, you are a failure as a missionary’), ‘Don’t you ever say that to one of your missionaries. Maybe in six months they will not have found a wife; and if they take you seriously, they may rush into a marriage that will be wrong for them.’ “Please don’t misunderstand what we are saying; but, brethren, think more seriously about the obligations of marriage for those who bear the holy priesthood at a time when marriage should be the expectation of every man who understands the responsibility; for

remember, brethren, that only those who enter into the new and everlasting covenant of marriage in the temple for time and eternity, only those will have the exaltation in the celestial kingdom. That is what the Lord tells us” (President Harold B. Lee in Conference Report, Oct. 1973, 120; or Ensign, Jan. 1974, 100). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

-“When full-time missionaries return home, they should be counseled concerning such matters as continuing their education or employment, strengthening family relationships, participating actively in the Church, paying tithes and offerings, and preparing for temple marriage. It is unwise, however, to ‘recommend that missionaries be married within a specific time. The decision to marry is so important that it should be made only after the most prayerful and careful consideration by the individual.’ (Mission President’s Handbook [31153], 1990, p. 23)” (Bulletin, 1993, no. 1, 2). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>)

Principles of Order in Relationships by Julie Smith (add a quote ref for who said millenstar)

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WHEN GOD WANTS TO CREATE ORDER

The last few years my girls and I have been studying about relationships. We have read from Jane Austen to the Jewish Betrothal, to Joseph Smith's courtship to hundreds of scriptures and have found much! What is the common thread? Principles that were used. Here is what we are learning.

When God wants to create ORDER (mode of proceeding, discipline, proper state, sure foundation) he uses principles to create it.

Order is in itself one of the attributes of God's presence. Disorder or confusion, on the other hand, is one proof of the Devil's manifestations. Where there is no order, there is disorder. And where there is disorder there is confusion. In the first book of Corinthians, we read in clear terms that God is not the author or source of confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

1 Corinthians 14:40, KJV: "Let all things be done decently and in order."

GOD USES PRINCIPLES WITHIN HIS ORDER:

To suppose that the Maker of the universe never gave to any man any law (marriage, multiply) after he had formed him would, in our opinion, be offering an insult to his glorious character and be comparing him beneath even an earthly parent. For where, we ask, is the kind, humane father to be found who would grow up to manhood without giving instruction, and instruction too which would be wisely calculated to benefit them in ripen years?...Evening and Morning Star, March 1834, 143

DEFINITION OF PRINCIPLES?

Timeless

Eternal truth.

Cannot be destroyed

General truths with many subordinate truth

Generally principles are not spelled out in detail.

Provide protection

Principles are concentrated truth, packaged for application to a wide variety of circumstances.

From which a thing proceeds

Serves as a rule of action or the basis of a system
A law of action

RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES

Are there principles used to create Order for a someday marriage?
Absolutely! Take a look at a list created. Can you see how these when
used would form a perfect union between a young man and girl?

Brother and Sister Relationships

Real life Activities

Emotional Purity and Physical Interactions are maintained

Patriarchal Order

Righteous Parental Authority/wise council

Preparation for marriage

Equally Yoked
and Ask Tough Questions

Life of Consecration

Principles can be used at anytime and in any sequence. These
relationship principles are put into a natural ascension, building on
top of each other, but can be used all through out one's life in
preparation for marriage.

It is our job as parents to help our children use these principles.
Marriage is one of the most important steps they will do in their life
and God wants it done correctly and with the right one.

Fruits of the Romantic Evolution of Marriage: 21st Century Turmoil

Introduction & Thesis

Pre 1900 Marriage (1000-1900 a.d.) was marriage with community friendly values. Community friendly values are values which support a strong community. Post 1900 marriage was individualistic. Individualistic marriage is any mating arrangement which is calculated to bring immediate individual satisfaction at the expense of all other values.

Marriage after 1900 gained some strengths, but mostly lost strengths. There is more freedom to choose which mating lifestyle you chose today, but there is a disregard for community today. Pre-1900 marriage used mating arrangements to fix the economy from the inside out. Post 1900 marriage used mating arrangements to fix people, and asked government to fix the economy. Since government is just another word for people, this theory failed.

Era Definitions

-Barbaric Mating era: The barbaric era I will refer to as anything preceding 2000 b.c. When Coontz (2005) refers to “traditional” not always being “traditional”, she is speaking of the barbaric evolution of marriage which occurred before the communal marriage era. This includes wife swapping and sale of children. Marriages much earlier than our pivotal time of 1900 were in a developmental / barbaric / non-civilized stage.

-Communal Mating era: 2000 b.c. – 1300 a.d. The communal marriage era was followed by the romantic era.

-Romantic Mating era: The romantic era was about 1300-1900. It was followed by the post 1900 progressive era.

-Pre 1900 Mating: When referring to Pre 1900 marriage in this paper, we are referring to marriage from approximately 1000-1900. This is a combination of years 2000 b.c. – 1900 a. d.

-Post 1900 Progressive Mating era: Moving from economic /

communally based marriages to marriages for pleasure; the result of the Romantic era. The ripe fruits of Romanticism.

Pre-Communal Barbaric Marriage

The ideal for marriage had been obtained by the preromantic era. Before the renaissance and enlightenment, most societies treated women as sex toys, abused them, and didn't train their posterity. It was barbaric. The term barbaric can mean "non-Greek", and has always been a way of saying "uncivilized", or "untampered for the common good." We will see how Romantic marriage and Post-Romantic marriage is similar to barbaric marriage. Barbaric marriages were not long term, were easily obtained, and easily discarded. The woman was silent. Romantic marriages can also feature quiet women, but in a different way. Romantic women are quiet in their majesty, being revered by men. Barbaric woman are quiet in fear, hiding from the muscles of their wild men, obeying them for fear of their lives. Indeed, murder itself wasn't very punishable in mediaeval or Eskimo type societies. They acted like animals.

Pre-Romantic Communal Marriage

Marriage for many millennia had its several changes and variations, but one thing remained the same: marriage was for community. Marriage was an arrangement which benefitted children, and benefitted a man's vocation. Vocation and children were the two pillars of society. The children were raised to be good citizens, and the vocations were the engine of the economy. Thus we may say that economy was the engine of pre-20th century marriage. Woman stayed at home and taught their children to be good, and men stayed away from home contributing to the economy. This is not surprising because hunger and poverty had been large issues that never seemed to go away, and a focus on economics was the surest way to alleviate suffering. There was still adoration of the spouse in this pre-romantic era, but it wasn't so persuasive that it overwhelmed the sound necessities of social order.

Romance

Though we often hold romance as a high ideal of life, it has its dark side. In fact, the roots of post 20th century marriage can be traced to the evolutions which took form in the Romantic period, when logistics of mating were converted from communally based to individually based.

Marriage became “romantic”, wherein the focus shifted to the lovers, rather than the context they were loving in. This created a wake which pervaded, some say destroyed, modern 21st century marriage. How is this? People argue that all that matters is what the couple wants. This is what makes homosexuality a popular idea – the satisfaction of consenting adults. The polygamy movement is also powerful in this case. A case in point of the degeneracy of romantic marriage is Lord Byron. He wrote beautiful poetry, but was a cruel husband. Romance looks good but leaves a person wanting for something.

Cycling Between Tradition and Progressivism: Post 1900 Marriage

It seems that in the 2000’s, that a new breed of suffering came to the spot light; now that Americans were prospering in their suburbs and enjoying technological conveniences, issues of mental health began to rise. Now a person could have more legitimate issues than an empty stomach, or other economic issues. Hence we used the doctrine of Romanticism to bring about a whole new way of living: the individual was first, not the community. The community had learned how to survive economically. Economics was the reason for community. But now, the individual had his turn to look to higher needs. Loneliness of being single became a real issue. Sexual hunger was now to be addressed now that physical hunger had been addressed. The Great Depression is a mysterious chapter. It shows that a society who thinks they had everything figured out still doesn’t really understand how to keep a person from being physically hungry. This lead people back into a primitive time. The 1950’s looked much like the 1850’s, people were going back to the basics of community, marriage for children, man

focusing on a vocation, woman focusing on raising the children (Coontz, 2005, p. 230) each for the foreordained societal roles as determined by their gender. Just like how the 1850's and 1950's looked similar, so did the times of 1870's and 1970's. These were the times of revolution. The times of rebellion against the communal economically based society. Their physical hunger had been met so it was time they changed the stability into something hopefully better.

Pre & Post 1900 Mating Case Study: Polygamy

Polygamy is no longer seen as back woods people in their misogynist traditions, but is seen as a group of intelligent consenting adults. Until a band of college professors got together and said, 'we are consenting adults living together, let us call ourselves married', the courts never thought twice about allowing polygamy. Now polygamy and its close relative polyamory are closer than ever to becoming another embraced way of life. A case in point of wonder on this topic is that another modern American group, a show case of pre-1900 citizens, the Mormons, wanted polygamy, but were persecuted for doing it, put in jails, chased from state to state into a wilderness, until finally when their temples (most sacred houses of worship in the Mormon faith) were threatened by the state. The modern polygamist in states where polygamy is popular (Utah, Idaho, etc.), even though technically this practice is illegal, the people practicing it are not prosecuted because the government doesn't think it worth their time. So there is an advantage in living in post 1900 marriage times, there is more freedom for things considered non-traditional. Although the Mormons and other polygamists may well cite many cases of their polygamy as being quite traditional, just a more ancient tradition. So post 1900 is a better time for a person wanting marriage because he can do it in whichever way his conscience pleases. The polygamy case of pre and post 1900 also represents a potential fear however, that the term marriage will become so dissected that any semblance of regularity will entirely disappear. Polygamy was taking it too far said the American courts of the 18th century, and those of the 21st century are now

saying that those against non-traditional marriages, particularly homosexuality, are not being fair. Fairness seems to be the motto of contemporary marriage customs in the United States, whereas righteousness seems to be the standard of pre-1900 marriage. There was a wrong and a right way. Any stirring the water of the commonly held norms was devious and apostate, whereas today, stirring the water in confession of irregular desires is considered brave and independently bold.

Pre & Post 1900 Mating Case Study 2: The Women's Movement

The women's movement from reserved guardian to defender of singleness has impacted marriage. Before 1900, women were considered as available before marriage and unavailable after marriage. Marriage was a defining characteristic of woman. A man interested in a woman would say to himself "I had better marry her before someone else does". The modern man merely has to say, "I will woo this woman and win her for at least a while; no woman can be won forever, and all women can be won at any time regardless of their relationship status". The woman in the workplace now takes on the same role as her husband, participating in sexual deviance. Men were allowed to have sex with multiple partners, then to come home and be scolded like puppies before being readily embraced again, forgiving their blunders on account of their supposed ignorance and innocence and inability to control themselves. Women were seen as the more powerful sex, the ones who could control their passions to keep them within the culturally appropriate boundaries. In the zeal for equality with men, rather than holding the men to a higher standard, the women have lowered their standards, insisting that if the men could get away with marital infidelity, they should be able to as well. When women went to work outside of the home, they not only earned like the men, they played like the men. Women solved their age old "problem" of their pleasure sex resulting in painful children by baby-death drugs. I refuse to use the term "birth control", it makes murder sound too responsible.

Romantically Rooted Hyper-sexualization in Post 1900 Mating

Pornography isn't the main problem today, it's the fruit of an evil tree. When society shifted from marriage for community good to marriage for individual pleasure and preference in the name of individual good, everyone allowed themselves to indulge more than ever in sexual passions. Playboy, an invention of the 20th century sexualizing women and mass distributing magazines of their sexuality, sold many copies in the open market, not the black market. Places like Utah have officially declared pornography as a public health crisis. They recognize that free sex is not a good thing. Romanticism's individualism lead people to marry how and when they chose. Then people did the same thing with sex. People had sex how and when they chose. The individual, not the wellbeing of all, was crowned king. Fast food restaurants are a type of this phenomenon. No matter how unhealthy the food, its how you want it and when you want it, so you get to have it. The majority of young women do not marry as virgins like they used to. As many as 70% have extra-marital sexual relations. Not as many children have a role model mother and father to teach them about life and work. Nearly 45% of children are born to unwedded parents. Despite of these statistics, most people still value marriage as a top priority in their lives. Nearly 90% of people list being married as one of their greatest desires in life. We can conclude that issues of pornography, extra-marital sexual relations, and out of wedlock births will decrease back to where they used to be when a shift occurs back from individualism to communalism. I refrain from using the term communism since such refers to a sharing of economic resources from government. Here our focus is on the USA, whose communal living was a couple living for the wellbeing of the society. This is far different than an individual waiting for the society to help it and give it all its wishes. The individual wishes for marriage how and when it wants, and sex how and when it wants. In 1990 Barbie was created, the first children's play doll to have fully developed breasts. This showed that society was tolerant of children becoming acquainted with sexual organs instead of waiting until marriage age to make this acquaintance. It goes hand in hand with the philosophy that

marriage and sex should be how and when you want them. Termination of marriage has become free without restrictions which before kept marriages together (Coontz, 2005, p. 261). The human tendency is to obtain 1 pleasure now instead of 2 pleasures tomorrow. Those pleasures can be related to communism and individualism. Most want individual pleasure now even if no communal peace results. Marriage kept people together so there would not only be individual pleasure but communal benefits. Now marriage is weak which results in communal benefits ceasing. Ironically, communal benefits ceasing leads to individual pleasure decreasing. Being at wit's end, the individualists turn to government economic communism to fix what they broke by their individualism. They want both individualism now, and communal benefits now. That is a condition which cannot exist.

Solutions Post 1900 Mating Forgot

The only lasting solution for individual pleasure is to have communal peace at the same time. This means people must marry with communal standards in mind, not purely individualistic reasons. The individual must take the back seat to the community. A focus on individual rights leaves progress behind because it is self-centered. Like the jar which couldn't fit rocks before sand but could fit sand after rocks, so is the couple who marries with communal standards. A couple who marries with communal standards in mind will find individual pleasure. But the couple who marries with individual pleasure in mind will not find communal strength. The fruits of self-first marriages and sex are deviant children who don't contribute to society. This leads us back to a broken economy and physical hunger. Post 1900 won't forget this lesson for long, nature will force them to remember soon enough. The cycle of the revolving door continues despite us. Romantic love turns out to be indeed, "a serious threat to social order" (Coontz, 2005, p. 15). Barbaric mating was abusive and animalistic. A good thing emerged thereafter: communal mating. Then came romantic mating as people got selfish. This resulted in Post 1900 marriage where

crime rates are higher than ever, and most people can't stay married.

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Appendix 1

Table 1: Communal VS. Individualistic Marriage Benefits
 Communal Success Immediate Individual Happiness Long Term
 Individual Happiness
 Community centered marriage High Medium High
 Individual centered marriage Low High Low

Appendix 1

Table 1: Communal VS. Individualistic Marriage Benefits

	Communal Success	Immediate Individual Happiness	Long Term Individual Happiness	
Community centered marriage	High	Medium	High	
Individual centered marriage	Low	High	Low	

Appendix 2

Table 2: Eras and Their Characteristics

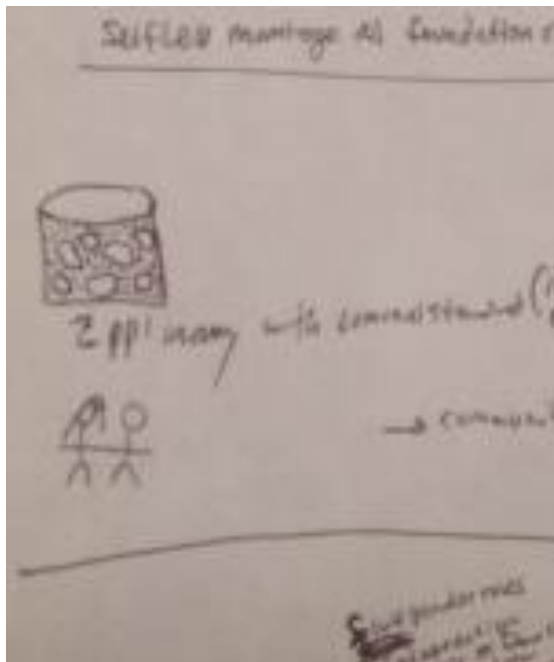
Era	Trait 1 Marriage	Trait 2 Children	Trait 3 Government
Barbaric	Random	Anarchy, Tribalism	
Communal	Polygamous, Monogamous	Communal	Many
Capitalism			
Romantic	Monogamous, Individualistic	Few	Moderate
Capitalism			
Pre 1900 (2000bc-1900)	Communal then Individualistic	Many then few	Capitalism then moderate capitalism
Post 1900	Anything	None	Communism/Socialism

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Barbaric	Random	Random	Anarchy, Tribal
Communal	Polygamous, Monogamous, <u>Communal</u>	Many	Capitalism
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Pre 1900 (2000s-1900)	<u>Communal</u> then Individualistic	Many then few	Capitalism then moderate capitalism
Post 1900	Anything	None	Communism/Socialism

Appendix 3: Picture to turn into other use here: shows that marriage for individualistic reasons is like sand in a jar before rocks, the rocks won't fit. But if you put the rocks in first (rocks representing the duty, the important things), then the sand (the fun things) will both fit in the jar at the same time. Marry for individualistic pleasure, and you won't



bless the community, and will thus lose your soul. Marry to bless the community, and you will get the pleasure too. Also note that expectation of perfect bodies before the resurrection is an expression of a lack of faith in Jesus Christ.

Holy Inertia: Return Missionaries ‘Hit the Ground Running’ Toward Marriage

Some say returning from a mission is ending a fast of women. Indeed, the missionary has no romantic feelings, he is at war, and must focus lest he lose the battle. Some suggest that a man must not quickly marry like a man fasting thinks highly of simple bread & cheese, but should wait for the banquet. But has not the Lord counseled us to live simply? The fast is to be oft, and we are to live in humility. We should seek a partner who is humble and contrite toward the Lord, rather than a woman schooled in the ways of the world.

Some say wait a while after a mission before you make decisions since you’re up on a higher plane and not yet in the ‘reality’ of day in and day out life. I say this is the opposite of what we should do. Use the holy inertia to propel you forward. You’ve been counseled to have a ‘sense of urgency’ while on your mission, well, why stop when you get home? Why dabble around waiting for the adversary to beat you down before you make something out of your life? Instead, find someone who feels like you do about the gospel, marry that person, and work together quickly to build the kingdom of God. The D&C says that every idle word will need to be accounted for in the final judgement. Why are you wasting time? Why suffer yourself to enter temptation? Why not act on your zeal and make a righteous choice today while you have the strength of will to do it, rather than waiting around until the love of money or the lust of the

flesh sneaks into your soul from the Babylonian society we live in? No, instead, act on promptings from the Lord to create your family. And remember, there's no "one right person" for someone; President Spencer W Kimball and others have taught that any 2 people can be compatible if they are living the gospel. President Dieter F Uchtdorf taught that though his wife is the love of his life, she is not the only person with whom he could have been happy. This makes sense. To think that there's one domino person you need to marry or the whole equation of the salvation of the human race gets foiled is such folly, the Lord wouldn't leave our souls up to chance like that. The Lord will provide a spouse for you, act on that opportunity. If you keep rejecting opportunities from the Lord, he may give them less frequently. President Thomas S Monson spoke of how looking back on his life he wished he would have married his wife sooner. He waited a few years after meeting her to marry her, and this he lamented. Married life is happy life. Perhaps this is why we call it marriage: merry-age.

Then come the children. One institute teacher I admire introduced himself and his family by saying 'my wife and I decided we were going to have 12 children and we weren't going to wait around about it.' Well he did have his 12 children, and they pulled it off before health issues robbed them of the ability to have more children. It's odd that the suggested age for child bearing these days is quite near the age of infertility, as though it were a last ditch effort, left up to chance as to whether it would even happen at all. Those of us with a handful of children couldn't possibly imagine life without some of them. President Russel M Nelson says that if he waited until he could afford it to have children, half of his 9 wouldn't have ever been born. If you're waiting around to become a better parent before you become a parent, any parent would tell you that a month of actually being a parent gives more training than a year of reading or studying the subject, or even of babysitting other people's kids. For a great recent (2011) discourse on not letting school or money postpone your childbearing, see "Children" by Elder Neal L Anderson. (<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2011/10/children?lang=eng>)

Have not the living prophets declared that the coming of the Lord is neigh? Why should we linger in the valley of sorrow? Why not be brave and seek and accept opportunities to continue in HOLINESS TO THE LORD! The family setting (including marriage and child bearing) is the ideal setting for everything, including finding yourself, perusing your hobbies, enjoying time with your friends, learning to manage finance, getting an education, learning charity, and every other good thing you can do with your life. There are other topics in which we should act in quick zeal such as formal education, career development, gospel scholarship, family history research, but I emphasize making family creation a priority because it is the foundation for everything else. Put creating a Christ centered family first, and everything else will fit perfectly in its place.

When is Ideal to Marry? A Few Thoughts and Ben Shapiro on Marrying Young

Here's Ben Shapiro advocating marrying in the early 20's:

<https://youtu.be/gKmXcmyRFHM>

When recently asked what an ideal marriage is, I replied:

It depends on the person. Some want to marry earlier than others and are ready for it, others naturally take a bit longer. But I agree with Shapiro that if we put it off too long you'll regret it.

Personally I was blessed to marry at 22.

Life is something to go through with family, rather than making a family after you've accomplished your goals.

Interestingly, Gandhi was married when he and his bride were 13. It seems in that culture, people were prepared for adult roles at a younger age than we are. I do not advise this, I'm just pointing out that different cultures have different ages for marriage. I also share

this to point out how it's sort of silly that in our culture, we usually think marriage is doomed if it's done before around age 30.

Ten Reasons Latter-day Saints are Known for Marrying Young

The person with honest intent doesn't need lots of time giving introductions. - Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

This article was brought to my interest when a woman spoke to me of her confusion for why the latter-day Saints marry oftentimes quite young and quite early in a relationship. Though we as a people may be wise to wait a little longer sometimes, here are some reasons I've found for why the saints can both create and maintain marriages better faster and stronger than any other people on the face of the earth (studies show latter-day saints are much less likely to divorce than other US citizens, etc.). The woman with questions of these early marriages thought it was just so they could have sex. This is far from the truth. As you will see in this article, the latter-day saints base relationships off of far more than corporal pleasure.

1. They have an extraordinary ability to make and keep long term agreements. when they were baptized, they received the Holy Ghost to be their constant companion so long as they continue faithful, and repent of their sins when they fail. The Holy Ghost helps them have vision of the future, and helps them discern the character of others. It also reveals to them when there is danger, and reveals to them the comfort of God when they are on a good path, namely, with a person whom they could build a good future with. One can never overestimate the power of the Holy Ghost.
2. They believe it is an essential component of saving one's eternal soul
3. They love one another, and are not hard hearted

4. They are trained to be ready for childbearing from coming from large families, and from being taught that childbearing is a commandment from God not to be postponed
5. They are mature for their age, having participated in more adult roles via church leadership and service. A good social scientist will tell you that the appropriate time to marry has less to do with age and more to do with maturity.
6. They recognize the spiritual danger of spending inordinate amounts of time with someone of the opposite sex to whom they are very attracted to. They understand that to use someone else's body for pleasure without offering them long term, even eternal, fidelity and service, is robbery.
7. They do not base their marriage on bodies. Some have said that the latter-day saints marry early because they are forbidden from sexual relations outside of marriage, and are just excited to start having "legal/sanctioned" sexual relations. Some have said, "if you can't have sex, what can you do?" These critics have failed to understand that relationships are built by assessing character rather than assessing bodies. Marriages built on bodies rather than character are the most prone to failure. Courting involves friendliness, minor touching of affection such as holding of hands and small kisses, but does not include touching of the private parts of the body, under or over the clothing. The world fundamentally misses the concept that exchange of bodies is a privilege reserved for the highest commitment, that of marriage. Joining the bodies without joining everything else (the love, the goals, the purpose, the home, the children, the finances, the risks, the reward, the fidelity, the devotion, the confessions, the sympathies, the patience, the mercy), is mockery before God. The uniting of the bodies is not casual, but rather it is the most sacred and reserved act known to humankind.
8. They have a firm foundation of character, and know how to discern the character of another person, so as to not fear entering a long term, even eternal, relationship. The less honest and faithful ones past has been, the more difficult for that person to be reliable, and the more difficult to it is for

themselves and others pertaining to them to make gravitus advances.

9. They understand the doctrine that there is no such thing as a soul mate, a one true love which if not selected would result in a life of chaos and disappointment. Any two people can be compatible if they are abiding by the teachings of Jesus Christ the Lord. Once someone has married, the person they marry becomes their soul mate. Love is created, not found. It is a choice, not something you just fall into.
10. They are happy. What is more attractive than a happy person? Many will stand in line for a chance to be wedded for a person who radiates joy in their countenance. Joy is the purpose of life. Though we go through much sorrow, the latter-day saints know how to have joy in the midst of trials because of the hope they have in Jesus Christ, whom they love, serve, and adore. They look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, and know that there will be world peace very soon. Real. World. Peace. Very. Soon. How can a person with such a knowledge refrain from shouting for joy, and from their visage bursting forth with light and majesty! The hope in Christ's promises are sufficient to send the soul soaring upward forever in light, and joy as bright as the morning sun, they cannot refrain from gladness!

Note 1: We do not judge one another when marriage does not come as soon as one would hope. Some pass through the valley of sorrow of singlehood, and Christ the Lord weeps with them. Their trials will make them strong, and nothing can hold them back from receiving every blessing power and glory which are promised to the saints so long as they hold out faithful and make an honest to God effort to keep all of the commandments of God, including TRYING to find a marriage partner.

Note 2 : We enter marriages with faith that they won't fall apart so easily because we have tools which we can use to sustain marriage.

Note 3: I've heard several people complain that they entered marriage too fast and had a divorce and left the church from it all. I never suggest that people not ready for marriage get married. I do suggest that the mature teachings in the homes of latter-day saints often prepares people to be sufficiently mature for marriage roles at an earlier age than society at large. Each man and woman must be careful about marriage, but not unto paralysis. Latter-day saints recognize the eternally important role of marriage in both development in this life and development in eternity, so they are excited to learn about and apply unto the principles of marriage and family life. They make mistakes like everyone else, but glory be to God, they know where to turn for help.

To Date or Not to Date: That is the Question A New (Old) Approach to Latter-day Courtship: Full Text by Joseph Smith Foundation, Hannah Stoddard

From <https://josephsmithfoundation.org/to-date-or-not-to-date-that-is-the-question/> shared with permission.

Latter-day Courtship: A new (old) approach to dating

L. Hannah Stoddard, edited by James F. Stoddard III and L. Sarah Stoddard

We have been told that “we’ve never had a better generation of young people in the Church than we have today.”¹ Why then are we losing more to immorality than we have ever lost?

WARNING: Do NOT read this article if you are content with contemporary society or happy with the direction this world is heading.

Date Night

It is a beautiful Friday night and the Gordon home is stirring with excitement as Sister Gordon, a wife and mother to four children, puts the final touches on her hair, makeup and evening dress. As a car pulls to a stop in the front driveway, she swiftly gathers up her purse and flies down the stairs to greet her visitor. Brother Gordon sits quietly on the couch, reading the evening news when the expectant knock comes.

“Why, hello, Brother Jones! How are you? It’s so good to see you again!” gushes Sister Gordon as she swings open the door. Her husband, Jim, comes over to shake the visitor’s hand.

“Always good to visit your home again! Thank you, Jim, for sparing your wife for a night. I have a wonderful night planned and it will be great to catch up on life!”

“There is no one I can think of whom I would rather see her with, besides myself of course.” Jim chuckles, “Try not to be out too late sweetheart and enjoy your evening!” and with a parting kiss, Jim waves goodbye as his wife and Brother Jones go out, hand in hand, for an entertaining evening.

Is Dating logical?



I hope as you read this short scene, you felt uncomfortable. What was a married woman with four children and a seemingly strong marriage thinking to go out with the husband of another woman? Granted, they were “just friends”. Sister Gordon and Brother Jones were capable adults with years of world experience. They were not in love and there were no serious intentions. They just wanted to have a good time and get to know one another better.

If this scene were to be reenacted in real life, it would certainly raise some eyebrows and gasps. Why? Because it isn't worth the risk. For a married woman to deliberately place herself in a position which could potentially wreak havoc on her marriage (with or without her husband's approval) would be unwise. Whether or not a man or woman are friends, strangers or co-laborers, if the individual is married it is generally understood in the Church that “going out” with someone else, someone other than his or her spouse, is unthinkable.

This discussion begs the following question: if it is considered wrong for a married individual to date other friends, (though they are not “in love”, have years of world

experience and know the clear expectations and boundaries for their interaction) why is it considered normal for single young men and women? What could possibly induce us to allow two young adults, head over heels in love or at least attracted to one another, with no experience, no commitments and only a few clear expectations and boundaries, to engage in activity we would shun for married adults? To varying degrees, we place a watchful eye over married men and women to ensure that they safeguard their hearts. We encourage them to purify and strengthen their marriage. Why are young adults exempt from this same care? Note the inconsistencies in our modern approach:

Married Man or women	Teenager or Young Adult
Not in “love”, already have a spouse	In love, a “crush” or at least an attraction
Years of world experience	No experience
Possible maturity	No chance to have gained wisdom from life
Clearly understand that this is only “fun”	Intentions range from “fun” to serious relationship
NO DATING!	DATING OK! (even encouraged)

We encourage the youth to go out and experience life without true restraint, without true precaution, and then we are shocked when some or even many of these “fine” youth succumb to the flesh and make tragic and “serious” mistakes.

Disturbing Statistics

In spite of the logical arguments, we could possibly make some exceptions if the dating system had positive data to strengthen its argument. Instead we see relationships with no intended commitment, young men who don't want to grow up, women who are not constant, increasing struggles with pornography and fornication, skyrocketing divorce, broken hearts, ruined friendships, jealousy, wasted time over “who likes who” and the list goes on. As one married father once told me, “crushes and dating only give you baggage you really don't want to bring into your marriage.” Statistics are revealing that the 21st century approach to relationships is failing. Divorce rates are soaring and single adults outnumber married couples in the United States.²³ An even greater concern among parents today is the ever increasing threat of pornography.

I believe these are only symptoms of the real problem. But do these trends have anything to do with the Latter-day Saints?

Unfortunately, the active LDS community is struggling as well. We have been told that “we've never had a better generation of young people in the Church than we have today.”⁴ Why, then, are we losing more to immorality than we have ever lost?



Step back a century or even several decades. If you had surveyed an LDS community, you may have found that those personally acquainted with a friend or family member who had engaged in premarital sex were an anomaly. At the very least few would argue that youth morality has improved. Today it is rare to find a ward without at least one case of immoral activity, abuse or children born out of wedlock. Sometimes the problems are near universal.

One BYU professor, a friend of mine, has mentioned repeatedly that the incidence of sexual immorality on campus is significantly greater than we understand. Considering the fact that I believe this to be a very serious issue, these comments cause great concern.

President Gordon B. Hinckley mourned:

Perhaps our greatest concern is with families. The family is falling apart all over the world. The old ties that bound

together father and mother and children are breaking everywhere. Hearts are broken, children weep. 5

Our approach to relationships is failing. Standards are drifting, immoral behavior has become “normal” and this is sadly true for the Church as it is with the world. But are these statistics only symptoms of the real problem? What has changed in the past several decades to create this catastrophe? Where did we go wrong?

President Joseph F. Smith prophesied that in the last days “there are at least three dangers that threaten the Church within, and the authorities need to awaken to the fact that the people should be warned unceasingly against them. As I see these, they are flattery of prominent men in the world, false education ideas, and sexual impurity.”⁶ (emphasis added)

Note that in this prophecy these issues appear WITHIN, not outside, the Church. Note also that President Smith warned that Church authorities or leadership needed to wake up to this. It is easy to quiet an agitated conscience while criticizing the world; however, the failings within are harder to swallow.

We are now experiencing the fulfilment of President Smith’s prognosis. How did this occur? Something has changed, and if we continue on this road, our families, government, communities and culture will fail.

The definition of “insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results”⁷ We will never see

marriages salvaged, families strengthened or strong youth until we do something radically different. I believe that if we return to our righteous foundations, the principles our nation and Church were founded upon, we can rebuild our civilization.

History of Dating

Could dating be a major part of the problem? Lets take a step back from societal norms and ask the simple question, “Where did the concept of dating come from?” The answer may shock you.



Mark Driscoll in his book Religion Saves and Nine Other Misconceptions reveals:

In 1896 the word dating was introduced as lower-class slang in reference to prostitution. ‘Going on a date’ was a euphemism for paying for sex. By the early 1900s, ‘calling’

was the primary means of marrying. Calling involved a young man, a potential suitor, scheduling a time to meet a young lady in the parlor of her parents' home in the presence of her parents. These meetings were carefully overseen by the parents. . . .

Such a process protected young people from danger (e.g., abuse, rape), ensured the involvement of the entire family in the courtship of a young woman, allowed her father to keep away the wrong kinds of young men, minimized opportunity for fornication, and kept marriage as the goal of such relationships rather than such things as cohabitation.⁸

Notice the transition that occurred. During the early 1900's, anti-Christian philosophies were successfully dismantling America's scriptural foundation. The Bible had become myth and fairy tales. American young women drank in women's magazines and romance novels in an attempt to "escape from reality". "Hollywood love" became the ideal and relationships became a means to satisfy the natural man. Jazz and ragtime communicated sloppy, loose behavior. Interaction between men and women began to become less guarded and parental wisdom and control was disregarded. Chaperones were neglected and "steady" relationships had no commitment. Youth were groomed for potential divorce by alternating through 10, 15, perhaps even 20 boyfriends or girlfriends before they even began to seriously consider marriage. "Off with the old, on with the new" became the norm before and after marriage. In short, Christian refinement and culture was being directly attacked.

By the 1920s, urbanization provided social outlets for meeting outside the home. Rather than calling at the woman's home, singles were now able to go out together at places such as restaurants, movie theaters, and dance halls. This began to create new social networks for single people away from their homes and parents and opened up greater opportunities for such things as casual dating and inappropriate sexual contact.⁹



America's Puritan legacy and multi-generational heritage of faith was abandoned for frivolous amusement and fun. When the 1960's rolled in, "Free love", feminism, playboy magazines, pop music, the birth control pill and legalized abortion swept America with shocking success. The revolution may have seemed sudden, but this new culture was merely the religion of America's youth externalized; a religion that had been converting Americans for nearly a century.

John Lennon, of the Beatles, "imagined" a world with "no heaven or hell", "no countries", "nothing to kill or die for", "no religion" and a "brotherhood of man" and he called us

to join them. Over four decades later, we have witnessed their dream (our nightmare) become a reality—political and religious principles abandoned through past cultural compromises. Unfortunately, President Joseph F. Smith’s prophecy has come true for not only the world, but the “Latter-day Saints” as well.

Take Heart

If you are feeling discouraged, take heart. Western civilization is failing, but we have an opportunity to rebuild. How do we restore our families and marriages? By a return to principle.

Emerging from the ruins of failed marriages, broken hearts and shattered dreams, a shift is beginning in how we approach pre-marriage relationships and the process of selecting a marriage companion. Allow me to briefly touch on this new Latter-day Saint courtship approach.

Gentlemen, Ladies & Patriarchal Authority

Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and others among the early brethren of the Church were masters at family dynamics. Their teachings can play a critical role in our return to time proven principles if we are humble enough to listen. John Taylor made the following statement from the Tabernacle in 1865.



It is usual in other countries, before a man can be received into society, that he must bring with him a reputation from reputable men; he is expected to have introductory letters before he can be introduced to them and associate with them, and not because he is in the shape of a man and walks on two legs. Why, baboons do that. 10

During the 18th and 19th centuries, letters of introduction set a standard when it came to friendships and acquaintances. For instance, some believed that a “gentleman should never be introduced to a young or old lady without her permission being obtained.”¹¹ One etiquette manual advised young women: “Courtesy is always to be cultivated, however, and a lady who knows her own dignity, and possesses self-respect, will not accept an introduction to a gentleman and dance with him, unless she is willing to also accept him as an acquaintance on the street. Young ladies should always preserve a modest demeanor in dancing, for it throws around them a halo of light and purity, and it does not beseem them to display the science or grace of an artiste.”¹²

These statements reveal that in the past, refined men and women exercised a cautious demeanor when it came to relationships. Influences were not taken lightly and there was a certain reserve maintained between young ladies and gentlemen. President Taylor continues by emphasizing the father's role in this area.

Before I should allow strangers to come into my family and mix with my wives and daughters, I should want to know who they were, where they came from, what their instincts were, and what was their moral and religious character. As a head of a family, I have a right to know these things; I have a right to know what influences are brought in and around my house, what spirits predominate there, and I have a right to know what a man's religion is. [Emphasis added]¹³



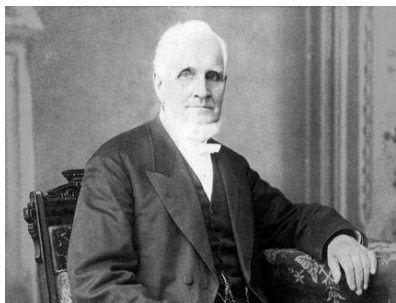
Notice that President Taylor considers himself the judge of not only suitors who come for his daughters, but those who desire to interact as friends. President Taylor states that he has a right first to know of these influences and second to

make decisions regarding these influences. In the Webster's 1828 dictionary, the word "right" indicates a:

Just claim; legal title; ownership; the legal power of exclusive possession and enjoyment. In hereditary monarchies, a right to the throne vests in the heir on the decease of the king . . . That which justly belongs to one.

Who endowed this authority? The giver of all rights is God, our Heavenly Father. The scriptures and the Brethren have clearly taught that each righteous family embodies a kingdom. If built on Celestial principles, this Celestial Kingdom or Family Kingdom will become exalted. This patriarchal order has been taught and emphasized by the Brethren to varying degrees throughout the years.

President John Taylor anticipated that critics of his teachings would employ a faulty understanding of agency when contending that the father lacks a legitimate right to govern his household. "Such behavior negates agency and the right to choose!" some cry. President Taylor responds:



"But do you not allow liberty of conscience?" Yes. You can worship what you please—a donkey or a red dog—but

you must not bring that worship into my house; I do not believe in your gods, I believe in the God of Israel, in the Holy Ghost, in the spirit of truth and intelligence, and all good principles; and if you want to worship your gods, worship them somewhere else, and if anybody else wants to worship them, they can do so: you can go on to one of those mountains and worship your gods, or if you are living in a house here, you can be a worshipper of Buddha if you please; but I do not want it in my house, and I do not want the spirit that you have—the spirit of those gods, visible or invisible; I do not want their teachings, spirit, nor influences. [Emphasis added]¹⁴

The standard President Taylor advocated is truly remarkable. A father who strictly monitors the attitudes, culture, media, music, books, education and friends entering his home would ultimately create a Zion culture in his home. Sadly, true manliness and patriarchal fatherhood have been mocked and denigrated for many decades. Due to this worldview shift, modern fathers are generally afraid to preside over their home and some wonder whether such activity is even appropriate. This dysfunctional behavior is strongly and often frequently encouraged by overactive daughters, wives, mothers and mother-in-laws. We seem to have forgotten the wise counsel of the Prophet Joseph Smith in this regard:



It is the place of the man to stand at the head of his family and be lord of his own house, not to rule over his wife as a tyrant, neither as one who is fearful or jealous that his wife will get out of her place and prevent him from exercising his authority. It is his duty to be a man of God— for a man of God is a man of wisdom—ready at all times to obtain from the scriptures, the revelations and from on high, such instructions as are necessary for the edification and salvation of his household.

And on the other hand, it is the duty of the wife to be in subject to her husband at all times, not as a servant, neither as one who fears a tyrant or a master, but as one who in meekness and the love of God regards the laws and institutions of heaven [and] looks up to her husband for instruction, edification, and comfort.

“Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord, whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” — 1st Peter, 3rd 6th. 15

I find it sad that parts of this statement can be found across the Internet, but inadvertently or perhaps not so inadvertently some of the fundamental phrases have been omitted. Before attempts to write off the Prophet’s statement as “opinion” or a reflection of his “times”, please remember the Lord Jesus Christ stated that our generation would have His word through His Latter-day servant, the Prophet Joseph Smith.¹⁶ We would do well to consider carefully the Prophet’s counsel.

“As for me and my house”

Inspired leaders have made it clear that God blesses the father who determines that “as for me and my house we will serve the Lord”.

17

Fathers must remember that both parts are important. The father must serve the Lord and he must direct his family in serving the Lord. Each father will stand and be judged in this capacity.

Returning to President Taylor’s counsel:

You may see people come here smiling and bowing, and very polite, and ‘won’t you let me take your daughter to a

party?’ No, nor yourself either, not unless I have a mind to; I will have a say in that, for I want to know who dances with my wives and daughters, and whether they have a reputation or not, and if they have a reputation, what kind of people they are. This I have a right to do in a social capacity, independent of all religion, and I mean to do it.¹⁸

Contemporary society seems to be a stranger to parental involvement with the associates, friends and dating companions of modern youth. It is typical for children to “let their Dad know” of their engagement after it has occurred. I believe all parties could use some reformation. Yet President Taylor instructs us that this is one of the father’s duties and obligations! Fathers must not fail in this most important responsibility.

President Taylor viewed his home as a mini-country for which he would answer to God in respect to his dominion over that jurisdiction. He viewed his role as building a dynasty that would leave a mark upon the world for good. His children were not merely adults in training, but warriors who would restore Christ’s true order and bring perfect peace to the world.

Approaching life from this mission-oriented perspective strongly influences the focus of children as they venture into selecting their own mates and beginning their own “kingdoms”.

A Watchful Eye

Consider how a Zion society would be fostered if we moved away from the dangerous dating custom. Instead of a “generation gap”, grandparents, fathers and mothers would be involved through the entire process of friendship, courting and eventually marriage. President Benson warned of dangerous trends in parent-child responsibilities and obligations during the 20th century.

In a real Latter-day Saint home there is no such thing as a generation gap. We never heard of it until a few years ago, and where did it start? It started with some of these so-called social reformers, these do-gooders who are used as tools of the adversary to drive young people away from their parents and to get parents to let down in their responsibility to give guidance and direction to their own children.¹⁹

Parents need to keep a watchful eye over their children as the Lord keeps a watchful eye over His children. Can you imagine the Lord saying, “I don’t know where my children are. They are out somewhere having a good time.”

Focused on Fun, Leisure vs. Entertainment

This Latter-day Courting approach also changes the way we look at social activity. Rather than frivolous activities focused on feeding a hunger for entertainment, these are replaced by valuable conversation and social engagements involve the entire family and occur in real life situations. Anyone straight out of Babylon can shine on the dance floor or in a candle lit restaurant, but the true revealer of character is practical, service-oriented projects. This real life experience can only be seen, understood or judged in

the sphere of the home. Unexpected situations and impromptu reactions allow a couple to become acquainted with the real person behind the public mask.

Along with working together in the home, activities of culture are also important in any relationship. President Joseph F. Smith counseled:



But, you say, we must have recreation; what shall we do? Turn to domestic [home] enterprises, and to the gaining of useful knowledge of the gospel. Let the love of reading good and useful books be implanted in the hearts of the

young, let them be trained to take pleasure and recreation in history, travel, biography, conversation and classic story.

20

Leisure is having a “change of pace” and balance while still being productive. On the other hand, to be entertained is to mindlessly engage in amusement. The word “amusement” comes from the Greek word “muse” which means to think. Prefixing the word with “a” inverts the definition, i.e. “not to think” Our contemporary society seems to be intoxicated with amusement, but President Smith counsels otherwise.

We should train ourselves to find pleasure in that which invigorates, not stupefies and destroys the body; that which leads upward and not down; that which brightens, not dulls and stunts the intellect; that which elevates and exalts the spirit, not that clogs and depresses it. So shall we please the Lord, enhance our own enjoyment, and save ourselves and our children from impending sins.²¹

Do we really want to choose our spouse while enveloped in a spirit of indolence? Can the Spirit of the Lord exist in such an atmosphere? President Smith’s statement declares mindless entertainment to lead to sin, stultification and destruction. Are these the ideals we want to found our marriages upon? The vast majority of contemporary couples are making decisions about who they are going to marry while they have a spirit of indolence, which is the spirit of the adversary. Sadly, these indolent activities are usually considered the “better” activities or harmless “fun”. Other activities include watching inappropriate

movies, listening to irreverent music²³ and dancing in styles that have been censured by Latter-day prophets.

How intelligent is this?



One's character may be determined in some measure by the quality of one's amusements. Men and women of industrious, business-like, and thoughtful habits care little for frivolous pastimes, for pleasures that are sought for their own sake. It is not easy to imagine that leading men in the Church would find any pleasure that was either inspiring or helpful at the card table; indeed the announcement that a president of a stake, bishop of a ward, or other leading official of the Church was fond of card playing would be a shock to every sense of propriety even among young people who are not seriously inclined to the duties and responsibilities of life. Such a practice would be looked upon as incompatible with the duties and responsibilities of a religious life. 25

President Joseph F. Smith and President David O. McKay have counseled that what we choose for our amusement exposes who we really are, our true character.

Tell me what amusements you like best and whether your amusements have become a ruling passion in your life, and I will tell you what you are.²⁶ You tell me what you think about when you do not have to think, and I'll tell you what you are.²⁷

Might we not also conclude, “Tell me what leisure was chosen while searching for an eternal companion and I will tell you how inspired your decisions while courting ultimately were.”

Emotional and Physical Intimacy

A principled approach to Latter-day Courtship also establishes the importance of avoiding emotional intimacy, physical interaction (kissing, hugging, etc.) and any kind of serious relationship until there is commitment and understanding in both parties. Commitment is marriage—before this time there is no true commitment.

President Spencer W. Kimball advised as President of the Church:

Since courtship is prelude to marriage and encourages close associations, many have convinced themselves that intimacies are legitimate—a part of the courting process. Many have cast off bridle and harness and have relaxed the restraints.²⁸



President Kimball advocates restraint when it comes to physical interaction. One purpose of this restraint being to ensure that commitment is wise and completed before emotion takes over. Among the refined classes of society in the past, hand-holding or any such demonstrations of affection were strictly avoided and purity was highly prized. Giving yourself in any degree to someone whom you will not marry only brings heartbreak and a lifetime of regret. Avoiding such mistakes encourages respectful friendships, productive courtships and ultimately a rewarding marriage. President Kimball taught:

They [early apostles and prophets] included all sexual relations outside marriage—petting, sex perversion, masturbation, and preoccupation with sex in one’s thoughts and talking. Included are every hidden and secret sin and all unholy and impure thoughts and practices. . . .

The world may countenance premarital sex experiences, but the Lord and his church condemn in no uncertain terms any and every sex relationship outside of marriage.

[emphasis added]

Withholding closer intimacy until marriage enables a couple to keep their “head on straight” and approach their potential companion logically and objectively.

Purpose is Marriage

The purpose of a Latter-day Courtship approach, as opposed to modern dating, is marriage. This is one of the most significant decisions you will ever make. It must be made with inspiration. It is a time when you need all the mental faculties you possess and when thinking clearly and rationally is imperative. Elder Bruce R. McConkie stated “The most important single thing that any Latter-day Saint ever does in this world is to marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority.”

I believe that applying these principles will move us closer to a Zion society.

Additional study resources on this topic:

Movies

- Come What May scenes: [Do You Want to Go Out?](#) and [Caleb and Don Discuss Dating & Commitment](#)

- [To Have and To Hold](#)
- [Biblical Young Women](#)

Articles & Ebooks

- [Do We Still Believe in the Patriarchal Order?](#)
- [What Our Father Taught Us About Boys](#)
- It's Not That Complicated
 - [Free excerpt from Chapter Seven: The Heart: Victim or Perpetrator? Getting Your Heart to Follow YOU.](#)
- [Home & Family FAQs](#)



1. President Gordon B. Hinckley, Church News interview, June 7, 1995

2. “Utah has a higher-than-average divorce rate compared to the national average. According to a 2009 U.S. Census Bureau study, the national divorce rate is 3.4, with Utah slightly higher at 3.6.” (Source) “In fact for women, Utah has the fourth highest divorce rate.” (Source)
3. “Unmarried American adults outnumber their married counterparts for the first time since the federal government began tracking that data in 1976, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. There were 124.6 million single Americans in August — accounting for 50.2 percent of the 16-and-over US population, the BLS data showed.” (Source)
4. President Gordon B. Hinckley, Church News interview, June 7, 1995
5. Gordon B. Hinckley, in Conference Report, Oct. 1997, 94; or Ensign, Nov. 1997, 69.
6. Smith, Joseph F. Gospel Doctrine: Selections from the Sermons and Writings of Joseph F. Smith, Sixth President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints. Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book, 1920.
312-13. Print.

7. The author of this famous statement is disputed. Some credit Albert Einstein, David Boswell or even possibly Benjamin Franklin.
8. Mark Driscoll, Religion Saves and Nine Other Misconceptions
9. Ibid.
10. John Taylor, "Divine Government, Etc.," Journal of Discourses, vol. 11, pp. 51-59, January 18, 1865.
11. EYEBRIGHT", "DAISY. A Manual of Etiquette with Hints on Politeness and Good Breeding. N.p.: n.p., n.d. Print.
12. Ibid.
13. John Taylor, "Divine Government, Etc.," Journal of Discourses, vol. 11, pp. 51-59, January 18, 1865.
14. Ibid.

15. Joseph Smith, “On the Duty of Husband and Wife,” Elders’ Journal, Aug. 1838, 61–62; “It is the duty of a husband to love, cherish, and nourish his wife, and cleave unto her and none else; he ought to honor her as himself, and he ought to regard her feelings with tenderness, for she is his flesh and his bone, designed to be an help unto him both, in temporal, and spiritual things; one into whose bosom he can pour all his complains without reserve, who is willing (being designed) to take part of his burden, to soothe and encourage his feelings by her gentle voice. It is the place of the man to stand at the head of his family, and be lord of his own house, not to rule over his wife as a tyrant, neither as one who is fearful or jealous that his wife will get out of her place and prevent him from exercising his authority. It is his duty to be a man of God (for a man of God is a man of wisdom,) ready at all times to obtain from the scriptures the revelations, and from on high, such instructions as are necessary for the edification, and salvation of his household. — And on the other hand, it is the duty of the wife, to be in subjection to her husband at all times, not as a servant, neither as one who fears a tyrant or a master, but as one, who, in meekness and the love

of God, regards the laws and institutions of Heaven, looks up to her husband for instruction, edification, and comfort. ‘Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord, whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.’ — 1st Peter, 3rd 6th.” (Joseph Smith, Elders’ Journal, August 1838, 61-62)

16. D&C 5:9-10 “Behold, verily I say unto you, I have reserved those things which I have entrusted unto you, my servant Joseph, for a wise purpose in me, and it shall be made known unto future generations; But this generation shall have my word through you;”

17. Joshua 24:15

18. John Taylor, “Divine Government, Etc.,” Journal of Discourses, vol. 11, pp. 51-59, January 18, 1865.

19. Benson, Ezra Taft. Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson. 406. Print.

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26. *Ibid.*
27. David O. McKay, *Pathways to Happiness*, comp. Llewelyn R. McKay (1957), 257
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29. *Ibid.*
30. "Agency or Inspiration?" *New Era*, Jan. 1975, 38., also cited in Monson, Thomas S. "Whom Shall I Marry?" LDS.org. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Oct. 2004. Web. 14 Dec. 2014.

<https://www.lds.org/new-era/2004/10/whom-shall-i-marry?lang=eng#footnote2-24950_000_003>.

Early Marriage and Parenthood Theory



This is a theory that we could MARRY AND BARE CHILDREN EARLIER than we do.

WARNING: I do not endorse romantic or sexual relationships between adults and minors, nor do I endorse sexual relationships between consenting minors, nor do I tolerate pedophilia, nor do I endorse any other illegal or vulgar activity. Further, I advise everyone to follow the current prophetic councils to wait to date until age 16, and for men to serve missions before marriage. The prophets will always lead us based on the current situations. The following theory of earlier family creation would not be desired or possible in the current culture we live in.

List of points:

AGE OF MARY at her wedding and birth of Jesus

“YOUNG” PEOPLE CAN DO GREAT, historic examples

ARRANGED MARRIAGES have less divorces

FORBIDDEN, THE YOUTH REBELS

CAREER AT EARLIER enables young family

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES not lost but gained in familyhood

WOMEN’S HEALTH not lost but gained in familyhood

MATURIZE body and spirit at same time, is a symbol of readiness for adult roles

LUXURY enables more time for childrearing

SATURATED WITH SEX CULTURE, yet climbing marriage / childbearing age.

EXPONENTIAL GOOD results the more children you have

LOSE A DECADE by late family formation

-AGE OF MARY the mother of Jesus scholars estimate to between 12-14 when she was betrothed and gave birth. Jews often married girls at 12 and boys at 13. Apparently God knows that women are capable of being terrific mothers at this age when they are prepared to do so, when their culture helps set them up for it, when they are mature and responsible, etc.

-“YOUNG” PEOPLE CAN DO GREAT and complex and challenging things. Mormon at age 10 diagnosed as “a sober child” and asked to be next keeper of the record of a civilization. Joan of arc – died at 19; heir to throne at 14, military campaigns near that age. At the age of 16, Mormon was chosen as the leader of the Nephite armies (Mormon 2:1–2). Mormon reported that when he was about 10 years old, “I began to be learned somewhat after the manner of the learning of my people” (Mormon 1:2). Right after noting that he was 15, Mormon reported that he “did endeavor to preach unto this people” (Mormon 1:15–16). Joseph Smith was called to be a prophet at

15. Similar to the boy prophet Samuel. Captain Moroni age 25 leader of all armies of Nephite civilization; must have had quite a career before that to get that position. Did not little David slay great Goliath? One might argue that late marriages are a unique thing of our era, and the more common method historically over the past 6,000 years has been “early” marriages.

Antoine Lavoisier married his 13 year old business partner. She was a great partner and worked with him on their science work.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie-Anne_Paulze_Lavoisier

-ARRANGED MARRIAGES in India etc. are often done at a young age, those marriages divorce less than US marriages by far. US divorce is about 50%, India divorce is about 1%.

– When young love is FORBIDDEN, THE YOUTH REBELS against its parents and society in general, despising them for taking away what could have been theirs forever. Romeo and Juliet were ruined not by their young love, but by their parents getting in the way. Would Romeo have been willing to sacrifice working several jobs and going to college while paying for a home and children for the love of his Juliet? Would Juliet would have been willing to bear children in poverty for her Romeo? Yes and yes!

-In order for “young” marriage to work, the society would need to train the men to have a CAREER AT EARLIER age. For example, the Jews would teach their children a trade at age 10. Thus the young man could provide for his family. Trade schools would need be emphasized.

-Some say marriage and children limit EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. Today with the “printing press” and the internet, we have books readily available and even formal classes of universities available from the walls of the home. Further, we should not limit education to formal schooling, but should seek it throughout the lifespan.

-WOMEN’S HEALTH issues about bearing children are by and large resolved so long as the mother waits until puberty to have children. A woman’s health is likely better all-around as she assumes roles of wife and mother. She will experience more of

the Holy Ghost / Comforter as she obeys and fulfils these God appointed roles, she will have an intimate husband to whom she can vent and speak to about all of life's issues, etc. Studies show that women are better off married than single.

-The human body and the human spirit MATURIZE about the same time. We begin to have questions of the soul at the time we begin to have arousal for the opposite sex, and mature feelings of responsibility toward the same, a willingness to begin to put aside the self for the other. Marriage and childbearing before these maturations is contrary to logic and void of essential metaphysical and physical symbols.

-Prophets have taught that our LUXURY from modern technologies such as dishwashers, cloth washing machines, online bill paying, ovens, microwaves, furnaces, coolers, cars, all this should lead us to be having more children than any other generation from all our extra time, but we are having less. To have more children, it often means starting earlier. Many women become barren at the age its popular to marry at now.

-Our society is SATURATED WITH SEX in the media and schools formally and informally, yet the age for marriage (and especially the age for childbearing) is pushed farther and farther back. This drives a culture of extra-marital sexual relations, cohabitation, and other failed systems of human sexual expression such as immodesty. Other coping methods are eating too much food, being anti-social, delinquency, etc.

-EXPONENTIAL GOOD results the more children you have. 1 person can give 1 lifetime of service to his fellowman. But if that person has children, they can give too. More on this idea, see document "Exponential Exaltation Theory" at this link: <http://richardsonstudies.com/2018/02/18/exponential-exaltation-theory/>

-We LOSE A DECADE of our lives in wandering around as teenagers, being minimally productive in school and vocation and other development. Parents all dread raising teenagers because the teen is ready for more independence and responsibility and its complimentary rewards of increased pleasure, but they are often denied this, resulting in mood swings and general rebellion.

Benjamin Franklin said **marriage is the happiest way to live and to not postpone** it. He said a single man is half a person. (See Cleon Skousen's 5000 Year Leap book for more on this, including defending the mature Franklin's moral character).

Resolution of Teenage Delinquency through Independent Family Structures

For decades now, we have been perplexed about crime and delinquency of teenagers. Is there something fundamentally chaotic about this age of the human being, or is there something about the way we treat them which triggers this rebellion? Let's look at the most basic unit of society: the family. Adult divorce is through the roof (about 1/3 of US marriages, though varying geographically). We know fatherlessness in the home plays a large role in adolescent delinquency. We know non-biological parents have more struggles with their children (more said on this later in the article). Further we know many teens' source of frustration is desire for a permanent romantic relationship which society forbids until they have reached a higher age. Perhaps these puzzle pieces can come together to paint an image of peace and family if we put them together in the right way. If we allow and even encourage the young person to marry, their satisfaction will generate positive feelings toward society, it has given them the hope of their dreams: the spouse of their choosing. This appreciation for society combined with the natural consequence of less out of wedlock births (currently about 40%) will result in more homes with children raised by their biological parents. Children whom are reared by their biological parents outdo children reared in other methods on every standard.

A key reason why I'm writing in favor of teenage marriage and childbearing is its help toward children creating 2

biological parent situations. Some say that children having their parents be the two-biological people who created them is not important. It's easy to see where they get this idea, perhaps from the APA itself. Recently the American Psychological Association declared that children of same sex parents do as well as children of biological parents. However, in their studies they only compared same sex parented children with children of divorced biological parents. They did this because most if not all same sex parented children come from divorced or never married parents. What the APA is not telling you is that children reared by their biological parents outdo children reared by non-biological parents on every measure. This is true of foster, adoptive, same sex, single parent, and other non-biological types of marriage. This idea of starting a permanent family below the age of what we currently call "adult" is unpopular and foreign. It brings many concerns like consent, maturity, biological and psychological readiness for adult roles, availability of education, child labor, and preparation for parenthood. We conclude that biological parenting is critical, and we seek ways to make that happen more regularly.

Like any other question, we will look at what history says about it. Is this a new idea? Is this a pop-social theory which will merely add to the divorce and other epidemics? Researching historic marriage, I've discovered that marriage at the age of puberty, usually early teens, is quite common worldwide. It seems that only in the past 100 years have there been such dramatic restraints on age in the organization and creation of families. Researchers across the board will tell you that for healthy development, we want people to be in families, and stay there. Other species do well after 1 year, but humans require about a decade minimum before independence (though several have age seven as the marriable age). Perhaps the biggest argument against teen marriage are the current statistics showing higher divorce rates for those who marry before the age of 18. I won't argue against those! The way our society is currently arranged, indeed our young people need some extra years to prepare for marriage. One can't help but wonder though: if our youth were taught a trade and other forms of responsible living at a younger age, could they indeed manage the weight and joys

of family life? Our youth are often in homes in their teenage years, so one might argue that they already experience family life; however, we so often see the teens petitioning to leave home, ready, in their hearts at least, to take on the world! They know the joy and dignity of creating something is greater than that of merely receiving! To summarize the old scripture, ‘their spirits are willing, but their flesh is weak.’

A big argument for divorce today is that the couple ‘chose wrong’. They didn’t get the ‘soul mate’ they thought, so naturally, a divorce will best serve both: a separation remediating a faulty union. Well, marriage therapists are saying now that the chief cause of divorce isn’t choosing the wrong person, but not maintaining the marriage. Why do I bring this up? I’ve been thinking about what makes a person ‘ready’ for marriage. Even if our young people are taught a trade and given ‘life skills’ training, can they handle the difficult task of maintaining a marriage? How about rearing children of their own? A common argument among neurologists psychologists and biologists is that the teenage brain simply isn’t formed all the way, which justifies the delaying of adult roles and low expectations. In fact, today its even popular to live by the maxim that ‘the later the marriage, the steadier the carriage’. This might not hold water as well as we think. It’s been recently discovered in social science that at a certain point, later marriage causes more divorce. Current social science shows that early and mid-20’s are ages for marriage resulting in least divorce. So here we are back where we started: When on earth should we marry? Well, it seems the culture has a lot to do with it. We can’t be too quick to give traditional naturally based science the end authority on such a social matter. While we love to crown empiricism as king of epistemology, we cannot neglect its other fountains such as experience, tradition, intuition, reason, or other forms of authority as basis for obtaining knowledge. We focus on puberty and brain development, but what about personal maturity? Surely such a measure varies case to case. How did historical societies manage to get men of 14 years to operate a farm, and women of 12 to rear healthy children? Surely this seems strange to us and hard to comprehend, yet there it stands, and we watch in wonder at what on earth they were up to. Their young people were off

the streets, satisfied in their relationships, and all this at what we would call a very young age. It seems that these young people are so satisfied by being allowed to follow the romance of their youth that they are increasingly committed to resolving the issues which inevitably arise in all marriages. One can't help but wonder what dear Romeo would have been willing to do to maintain a family with Juliet. Would Romeo have, in the name of love for his wife, been willing to work while going to college? To live in a small apartment while getting his career started? To work long hours to pay the bills? Would Juliet have been willing to rear children for Romeo? How about multiple children? All these things seem to be the natural consequence of true love: sacrifice. Unfortunately this 'young' love was denied, and now we'll never know. Not everyone is a Romeo or a Juliet, but perhaps we should give those who are a fighting chance! A study of the lives of successful millionaires in America will show that most of them were self-made. It seems that the very thing that enabled their obtaining and maintaining a fortune was the work ethic they learned in their youth. What was the motivation? Necessity. Perhaps the most powerful motivator indeed. It seems that marriage is something you grow into, not something reserved for experts (the same goes for parenting; studies show that children need firm yet loving parents, the rest is auxiliary)!

I can't help but wonder if part of the rebellion of our teenagers is from their frustration in the prohibition toward their relationships. If these relationships were allowed fruition, perhaps our young people wouldn't feel like they had to hide their feelings from parents and other authority figures. Perhaps they wouldn't go underground into the world of misogyny and prostitution to find expression to their frustrated emotions. To the extent which our laws and culture forbid people in these regards, they could be hindering rather than helping. Let us look at what allowing people to choose for themselves in age of marriage might look like. America has prospered for several centuries now based on the idea of free market capitalism – the premise that by exchange and diligence, companies can benefit each other and society at large more than a controlled government market ever could. The 'invisible hand' of Locke seems to really exist! How else can we explain such a 200-year-

old nation being the world power? Would it be a stretch to apply these free market ideas to our social structure in some areas? Perhaps we already have, and the marital age question merely lingers. Without forcing our youth to one direction or the other, the magic flurry inside them can help them dictate their own lives. How much more motivated are you on projects of your own choosing? For me, that's when work ceases to be work, and I'll go through anything on earth or hell to see the project to fruition. The government will have police to protect the young families in their own pursuit of happiness, just like it has for everyone else in theirs. Beyond that, government will give them space to follow their dreams. Truly the founding fathers of this free and powerful nation envisioned a limited government with enumerated powers which gives space for people to follow their own conscious and their own genius without the government getting too much in their way. We will need to protect children from being forced to marry and enter the workforce, but in our efforts to protect them we don't want to restrain their free will on this account which others before them have proven a plausible option. Can this delicate balance of protection and choice be found? I don't think we've found it yet, but that doesn't mean I have no hope for a better solution in the future. One can only wonder what the utopian society consists of, but don't our hearts cry for the disappointments of young people who legitimately could succeed if we give them a chance? At least from where I stand, it seems that the utopian society would have a greater level of liberty for conscience in these matters.

Perhaps I could finish up our analysis by offering a few practical steps toward enabling our young friends in their relational aspirations, potentially alleviating societies major family based issues. A big issue staring us in the face is vocational/educational. Would they have a fighting chance in these areas? The statistics can't be denied, we are all aware that our very young (under 18) marriages are struggling more to get along with each other and society. This is the reason we have laws and discourage young marriage. As I've mentioned before, teenage marriage and childbearing rarely works if thrown upon our current social configuration (sending them to school till age 18 then calling them adults). Some new methods offering

vocational training would be a minimal requirement in making responsible younger adults. This would not sap their childhood, but merely be one of many aspects of their lives. We recall the generational/family-based societies where the father teaches the son a trade in his youth, and the mother teaches the daughter homemaking or some other skillset. A main reason this doesn't work as well today is that homes don't have fathers and mothers anymore, not to mention childlessness (often a result of postponed marriage as well). Social programs do wonders, but historically the success of teaching trades to young persons has been in the home. This is a tall order in a society which calls for supplanting parental rights with social programs. If we do want to try social programs (like continuing mandatory public school), I conjure that something could be arranged by persons wiser than myself which could suit the youth for a trade early on. Education could be focused on basic arithmetic, literacy, and skills for a chosen trade. Those who choose to further their education could do so, but at least they would be prepared to productively participate in society and provide for a family if such were an aspect of their chosen calling. What we don't want are 18-year-old high school graduates who know nothing of the world of work. These young industrialists, working while obtaining their university education, would certainly not be the first to tread that path. As we mentioned earlier, many or most of our best have come from backgrounds of independent rising. The opportunity to elect one's course is fundamental to what America stands for. With young people already suited for their vocation, we could change our view of higher education from being only for a job, to be a lifelong activity. Our schools are bursting at the seams with business majors, and begging anyone and everyone to look at the humanities. This lack of study of the humanities results ironically in societal poverty and frustration. We are stifling otherwise beautiful minds by forcing them to use the age of their 20's worrying about qualifying themselves for a job during university years. Perhaps our current school program seeks to teach arts before vocation, but a man without vocation can hardly be mature enough to be interested in the arts. We would have many more lifelong students of the arts and sciences if we helped them obtain vocational training when young. A person

with a job and family can indeed obtain higher education, and that throughout the course of all of life. I have high hopes in the genius of online schooling to make this a reality.

Many details remain to be sorted out to make this a reality. I don't have all the answers about teenage delinquency, but from what I've seen and researched, putting the creature we call "teenager" into an independent family situation could not only be what it wants, but what it needs, and what we need as a society.

PS – We hear many advocate postponing marriage as it will make life easier. But are we here to have things be easy? Marriage, not singleness, will bring the labors of maturity. With a wise upbringing, children can become adults and create their own families without waiting decades to do so, and they can become all the wiser for so doing.

Additional thoughts:

Consider the Polynesian story of Johnny Lingo: They say the father of Mahana had given up on marrying her, that she was no more young, she was already 19 years old. This shows that in this culture it was commonplace to marry before that, likely according to nature's puberty.

Young Marriage: Poor but Happy

In fiddler on the roof, Tevye says of his newly wedded daughter and her groom, "They're as poor as squirrels in winter. They're so happy they don't realize how miserable they are!"

The Forgotten Dream of Family Life

Fight for Your Dreams, But Dream Righteously.

God will answer your prayers, but prayers for the wrong things brings condemnation (refs).

It's been said that you can accomplish about anything you put your mind to. Oft is heard the rallying cry toward students, salesmen with lofty monetary goals, and others, that you can win if you really focus, if you're willing to sacrifice, etc.

Then you ask yourself, "so, self, since you can have anything, what do you want?"

You can be some sort of wizard guru in any chosen field. To be world renown is quite simple, you daily apply the trait you wish to improve upon, and in a decade of an hour each day in that thing, you'll be one of the best at it in the world.

So we're back to the question, what do you want? This is the key question.

In all your wanting, I suggest one set of dreams that we can fight for.

I preface this by saying that too often people consider the "ordinary life" is something that gets in the way of "dreams". I submit that the people of the past were dreamers too, they just dreamed of having an "ordinary life." They fought for that dream, and they often obtained it. Don't think that the "ordinary life" of having a wife and large posterity, being free of debt, being politically free, and spending time with your family and neighbors is an easy thing. It is a dream like any other and doesn't come cheap.

I submit that we have forgotten the dreams of our forefathers. We have all sorts of dreams, and we think that family centered lives are a thing of the past, and among the religious circles, we can even think that family centered life is not as pleasing to God as using the bulk of your resources (including your time) to specialize in some academic or professional thing to serve the human race.

I submit that the best way to serve the human race (and thus God) is to have a family centered life. Many times we have heard the prophets declare that the most important work you'll do in your life will be in your own home (referring to your influence on your family).

Feminists complain of men who approach them at restaurants to have a good bout of righteous flirtation in hopes of future courting. What of the women who make the word “pregnancy” neigh unto a swear word? I’ve heard them actually praising God himself that they were lucky enough to not get pregnant for whatever time they wasted the night before. What of men who have no thoughts of providing, and no serious mind in matters of courting? Truly we are shifting away from family-oriented society. How little time our fathers and mothers spend teaching their children, or teaching them to work, or simply playing with them. Is this not a reflection of the scripture which declares that in the last days, the hearts of men (and women) will fail them? So do we “dream big” and “sacrifice all things to obtain our dreams”? Yes! But the world doesn’t understand what we do when we tell them that our dreams area to live the gospel, to uphold freedom, and most importantly, to live a family centered life.

Marriage to Serve God Together, Not to Spoil Each Other – Thoughts from Gabriel Owen

A husband should be very focused on serving The Lord. If he turns his desire to serving his wife (instead of serving The Lord) giving her what she wants, then her happiness is short lived, and she’ll lose interest in her husband.

But when he is focusing on doing what Heavenly Father wants her focus remains on him.

With her, when she is serving her husband, she is also serving The Lord, everything she does to help him be a better servant, is pleasing to The Lord.

(Also when he is living how Heavenly Father wants him to, he is caring for and serving every member of his family)

Can Heaven Be Better Than Marriage?

One country singer speaks of how he cannot think of how heaven could be better than being with his wife. He wonders why people look forward to heaven since he seems to have reached the sum felicity of existence when with his wife. The answer is this: What he experiences with his wife is a taste of heaven. He is right: being with one's spouse righteously is heaven.

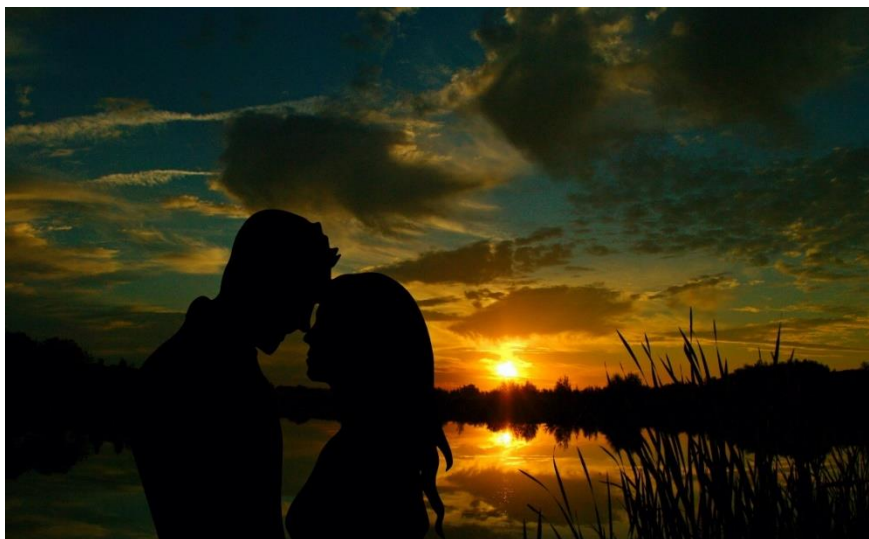
Now in life his challenge is to be righteous so he can keep the gift of his wife (and she must be righteous to keep the gift of her husband). If they are righteous, they will continue to have the blessing of each other in heaven. If not, they will be separated, and hell will be knowing what they once tasted and could have had forever but lost.

(See my article on losing the privilege of being a spouse and parent in the next life if living beneath those privileges and duties in this life.)

You see, marriage is the status of the Gods, and we are the children of God, with the opportunity of becoming Gods. God has given us a great trust in this life in allowing us to enter marriage; will we respect it or throw it away? Marriage with all of its rites (not rights) and duties can be hard sometimes but it is worth it. In fact there is nothing of greater worth. This is the one thing that has potential to last forever.

Some have thought that a temple marriage simply makes a marriage valid to last forever. This is true, but the deeper event that takes place in a temple marriage is that a relationship is formed and refined across the years with the added companionship and cleansing effect of the Holy Ghost, which gives that marriage character of such a union that it's worth staying together forever. We're not just getting permission to stay together forever, we're getting help to make something worth lasting forever. (Truman G Madsen speaks of this in his book *Marriage and Family* which is a collection of discourses, he co-authored with Stephen Covey)

Concerning those who seek cheap relationships for physical pleasure without moral grounding and parameters: How ironic that the very thing many sell their souls for will be the thing they



lose in the next life, because they didn't obtain it in the right way. Well did Jesus say, that those who seek to enter by climbing over the wall instead of going through the gate will be damned.

If we are to have forever the greatest joy of marriage and rearing children, we must seek that joy through Jesus Christ, the keeper of the gate. He is, as he said, "the way".

For those of you who know of the joy of marriage but still have not experienced the joy of rearing children, I assure you it is a similar ecstasy which adds another dimension to your fulfillment and satisfaction beyond anticipation. As going from single to married is akin to living in 3D instead of 2D, so is becoming a parent akin to living in 4D instead of 3D. If you don't know what that means, I will give you this hint: parenthood is when you enter "a new heaven and a new earth".

So can heaven be better than marriage? Heaven is marriage. And glory therein awaits!

Joining The Church: Salvation, Alcohol, & Sexual Chastity – Response to a Friend

List of questions:

1. Why would you go to heaven and not me? I'm a good religious person.
2. What about those who never got a passport but were good people? Can they enter God's city?
3. If I am a good person just not a member of the church, why would I have to live with murderers in the next life?
4. Why does the church ban the use of alcohol?
5. Why can't we have sex before marriage? Doesn't Utah have a big problem with pornography and divorce because of this? I need to have sex with someone to determine long term compatibility.

Question:

Why would you (an active member of the church) go to heaven and not me (not a member of the church / not an active member of the church)? I'm a good religious person.

Answer:

It's about covenants. Covenants are "business contracts" which must be entered into to enter the "city" of God. There is a government there, and without a "green card/passport", you can't get in. There is no illegal border crossing!

Also, what do you mean by heaven? If you mean a state of happiness in the next life, yes, all good people will go there, no matter what religion!

If by heaven you mean living in close contact with God and having the same level of knowledge joy and stewardship's as God, remaining in a married condition with the continued ability to procreate, then that part of heaven, yes you need permission to get in. That permission is via baptism into the true church.

Question:

What about those who never got a passport but were good people? Can they enter God's city?

Answer: Not until they get a passport. God will offer everyone passports. Death is the doorway to the next phase of life, and if you didn't get a passport here, one will be offered you there.

If you get offered a passport here (baptism into the restored church of Jesus Christ), study it out carefully to determine if it is correct. Do not let your fears of what the truth may have in store for you stop you for making the courageous steps toward

aligning your life with truth. Prepare to meet God, and if you've found the church to be true, join the church, as it will help you prepare to meet God, and we could all use help preparing for that.

If you cannot determine that the church is true, continue searching. Don't move forward until you believe that your move is correct. That's called faith. If you obtain faith in the church being true, then join. Until then, continue searching for truth, and act on your convictions and your beliefs. God knows your mind and your heart. If you know the church is true, you can't lie to God and avoid it pretending that you don't know it's true. If you truly don't know if it is true, then God will understand the reason you're choosing to continue your search rather than joining. God wants you to use your mind and act in the best way you can with it. Find answers to any questions you have, and use reliable sources as you search. The most reliable source is going to God himself, this is done by kneeling on the ground and asking God what the truth is. He will whisper it to you, and guide you toward it. If for some reason you or your loved ones are unable to determine what is truth, you will be sent messengers, even if in the next life, to explain to you in a way you can understand and believe wholeheartedly. Brigham Young himself took a few years of studying the Book of Mormon before joining the church, but others are given the gift of believing in even less time. The amount of evidence a person will need to gain conviction varies from person to person. It is a spiritual gift to be able to see and accept truth, pray for that gift. One cannot determine spiritual truth by merely appealing to physical research methods.

If a person chooses to not participate in the gospel of Jesus Christ, there are happy rewards for them still available in the lower kingdoms of God. God doesn't wish to damn us all, he wishes to save us all. He can only exalt those who deliberately seek it, but he can at least save everyone else to some degree of glory in his kingdom, even if a lower degree. Thanks be to God for sending Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice made both death and hell to be

temporary conditions. Everyone will be saved from death (in the resurrection when bodies are reunited to spirits), and everyone will be saved from hell (the wicked will be delivered from hell after 1000 years, the righteous will be delivered from hell as soon as they chose to repent of their sins so they can avoid going to hell altogether, they will spend that thousand years celebrating on earth with Jesus Christ throughout the remainder of this millennium).

If we persist in making bad choices, disregarding God and God's laws, our hearts will become hardened toward the truth, and we will begin losing the desire to go to heaven. Truly, we chose whether we will go to heaven or hell, and we chose to which kingdom of glory to reside. Beware the power of sin to curve your desires toward less glory.

If there were no passport, just anyone would come in, and that would negatively change the culture he wants to have there in his city. Historically, whenever people have been let into a nation, they change the culture there, and eventually, the government is changed because the people want it changed. The government in God's kingdom will never change, and those who will not conform to it will have to find residence somewhere else. When Lucifer (Satan) proposed major alterations to God's government, God said "Get out." God's kingdom is maintained by the rule of law, and to maintain that rule, he must have strict policies on who is and is not allowed to enter.

One might consider someone like Gandhi. A good person who didn't know about / understand the passport system (baptism into the true church of Jesus Christ). Gandhi and others like him who lived good lives then died are at a place called "the spirit world". In that world, he is being taught by missionaries to the extent that he will fully understand the passport system of the 1 true God of the universe. He will then decide if he wants to enter God's celestial kingdom (means he would need to keep the rules of that kingdom), or if he wants to enter God's terrestrial kingdom (he would have to abide the rules of that kingdom), or

if he wants to enter the telestial kingdom (a set of laws there too). Depending on what level of law he was willing to abide, he could choose to enter even the highest (celestial) kingdom, where he could advance to become like God his father.

No one is pushed to join the church. Everyone is encouraged to stand by their convictions regarding what is wrong and what is right. If a person discovers that the church is true, it is their opportunity to then join the church, and look forward to the opportunities found therein. The Book of Mormon is the evidence God has provided to show that this is the true church.

Is the restored gospel of Jesus Christ as found in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints true? Make a serious study of it! Deeply investigate, come to know for yourself! If it is true, glory hallelujah, you've found a source of pure truth which will bring you great joy! If it is not true, then return to your search, and never stop searching until you have found the truth! Settle for nothing less than the truth! Follow the combined action of your heart and mind and the promptings of the Holy Spirit of God which will like a dew from heaven from time to time touch upon your soul almost imperceptibly, and you can follow the directions it prompts you to guide your life.

As Joseph Smith said, when you are ready to come to God, he is ready to come to you: "When we understand the character of God, and know how to come to Him, he begins to unfold the heavens to us, and to tell us all about it. When we are ready to come to him, he is ready to come to us."

Question:

If I am a good person just not a member of the church, why would I have to live with murderers in the next life?

Answer:

You won't have to. Murderers spend 1000 years in hell, then they get their bodies back and make permanent residence in a lower kingdom of God called "the telestial kingdom". There are 3 levels in the kingdom of God, each having their own planets to reside on. Telestial is the lowest, and is for wicked people after they've done their time paying for their crimes in hell 1000 years.

The next level is "the terrestrial kingdom". This place is where the honorable people of the world go. They were honest and fair, but they denied the contract God offered them to enter God's kingdom. They weren't willing to adhere to the policies of the government of God's highest kingdom, so they remain in this lower kingdom, whose laws they are willing to abide.

The highest level is the celestial kingdom. Not all church members go there, just those who honor the contracts / covenants they have made with God. In this kingdom, marriage can exist forever, and people become Gods in the full sense of the word.

Question:

Why does the church ban the use of alcohol?

Answer:

I don't know. I think it is a temporary ban. Historically, alcohol has not been banned in God's kingdom. Christ even told his apostles that when he returns in glory, he will again drink the fruit of the vine with them. I think alcohol is prohibited currently because our culture associate's alcohol use with scandalous activities. Perhaps the pressure on youth to be stupid with alcohol is so great, that God is saying "just don't even mess with it right now". It could also have to do with toxins that could be added into these drinks. The ban on coffee could be for a similar reason, to avoid the harmful additives. Though these are minor policies, choosing to obey them means choosing to be allowed to "cross the border" into God's kingdom. For example, if you want to ride an airplane, you can't bring toothpaste. One would

wonder why toothpaste is forbidden, since we enjoy and find benefits in using toothpaste. But it is a temporary policy to protect us, given that there are many evil people on earth today. The revelation about God's standards for health in the Doctrine and Covenants specifically mentions the reason of banning certain substances to be for the reason of avoiding the plans of evil scheming men among us. There are some temporary inconveniences associated with compliance to gaining access to God's kingdom, but we can endure these minor trials as we focus on the great blessings in store. (The chapter with the revelation to not use alcohol etc. is D&C 89, at this link <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/89>)

Question:

Why can't we have sex before marriage? Doesn't Utah have a big problem with pornography and divorce because of this? I need to have sex with someone to determine long term compatibility.

Answer:

Social scientists have shown that the predictor of long term marriage, including sexual satisfaction, is based not in "sexual chemistry", but in the level to which the 2 persons unite their entire lives in a long term commitment to each other, vowing honesty and transparency to one another. Getting to know someone for their personality is far greater a predictor of marital happiness than getting to know their genitals.

What you think is 'sexual chemistry' by how you feel when you sleep with them is really a measure of how much that person is a kind person who cares about you and putting your needs above their own, vs how much that person is a self-centered prude. It has almost nothing to do with how your bodies interact. It has

everything to do with how your spirits interact. Having a body isn't unique, all bodies, except the rare exception of the crippled body, can function just fine in sexual intimacy. So basing the choice on a body is really quite silly, especially considering that in the resurrection, all bodies will be made more beautiful, stronger, and enhanced beyond comprehension compared to our current standings. It is preferable to marry the stalwart cripple who makes you feel at home who is disadvantaged in the physical activities rather than marrying the person who excels in physical activity yet is a shallow whelp who won't last a New York minute traveling through the refining fires of life with you. Chose someone who can measure up to your moral expectations before worrying about physical expectations. As Jesus said, "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Some claim that they feel more comfortable having sex with some persons verses other persons, and that this comfort or lack thereof helps them make their marriage selection. What they were feeling wasn't a product of one's body, but a product of the amount of trust they felt toward that person. A product of the amount of safety they felt with them. A product of how much they felt they could openly share their feelings with that person. Having sex on a first date is a Russian roulette - you don't know anything about them, and you're trying to unite with them. Is it any wonder that uniting with a stranger can be a negative experience? Or perhaps even a fun experience, but after which one finds it difficult to build a strong relationship?

Our grandmothers called sex before marriage "putting the cart before the horse" meaning that a cart can't be pulled unless the horse is in front of it, pulling it. This is wise when we consider that sexual satisfaction is a result of uniting one's self with the other person in every way, financially, in goals, in support, in trials, in everything. These things add depth and meaning (and thus happiness) to the experience of sexual intimacy. Sure, sex with a stranger can be fun, but it doesn't come close to comparing with sex with one's spouse. In a marriage, you will

eventually get to know each other sexually, and learn each other's sexual preferences, and in time, you will be sexually compatible. Great reading on this topic can be found from one of my professors at BYU, Dr. Jason Carroll, "Sexual Wholeness in Marriage", found at Amazon, Deseret Book, etc.

Expecting sex with a relative stranger to be fully satisfying is like a rookie trying his hand at a new sport with which he has no skill. Only after years of practice will the athlete find mastery of the sport. Further, only after playing with a companion for years will the athlete find greatest compatibility. A team can't just show up and expect to play well together. It takes a long time of working together to find symmetry.

The thing about marriage is that sex isn't the core of it. If sex is like athleticism, and marriage like baseball, we must understand that athleticism isn't the key factor. The willpower and desire to play is the key factor. There are many strong people who are terrible at baseball. In other words, just because someone is good at sex doesn't mean they will be good at marriage.

In fact, if you were to choose to participate in pre-marital sexual relations in the name of seeing if a person would be good to marry, you'll find this ironic result. The person who is "good at" sex and yet unmarried is the person who has failed to "play baseball". There is only so much talent and skill involved in sexual intimacy: the vast majority of sexual satisfaction resides in the commitment factor, the other-before-self factor, the long-term-union factor. The person who jumps from partner to partner who has some supposed sexual skill reveals that he is "athletic" but terrible at the overall sport of relationships. He shows that he is so disagreeable, that the many who have volunteered themselves at the altar of his passion have went away sorrowing, having sought goodness in him, and having not found it. He proves that by having practiced with so many different partners that he is not a team player. He shows that he is not capable of getting along with another person when it comes to anything other than the simple component of sexual intimacy. The best

person to marry is thus the virgin, or the person who has completely repented of their scandalous lifestyle, having learned that it was never a good idea, having found deep respect for those who understand the true nature of sexual intimacy. Someone who has reserved their intimacy for a team they could be committed to for the long term (even the forever-term). The person who reserves intimacy for marriage is the person who recognizes that life is not to be lived in isolation, and understands the nature of human beings, their longing and need for permanent attachment.

Marriage is a much broader topic than sex. Sex is something that happens in marriage, but marriage isn't the same thing as sex. Marriage is a cup, and sex is one of the drops of water which fill that cup. Sex cannot fill the entire cup. Nor should we judge the beverage by one ingredient or expect the presence of one ingredient to sustain the entire mix. The sexual ingredient of marriage will be abundant if the other ingredients are not lacking.

Sexual compatibility, like love, isn't something you find somewhere, not something that happens, but is rather something you build, something you cultivate, something you work at for a long time, until at last, you have built something magnificent! Similarly, you don't "fall" in love, you chose love. You don't marry your soul mate, you make the person you marry into someone with whom you chose to forever mate your soul. The world says that divorce is because you "chose the wrong person", as if people were the problem. The Lord teaches that every soul is of great worth, and that marriages are usually from a lack of maintenance rather than a poor selection. Prophets have taught that any two people living the gospel can be compatible for marriage. Marriage isn't about finding, it's about building.

Studies show that the more sexual partners you have before marriage, the lesser chance you have of having a long-term marriage. Those with higher number of pre-marital sexual partners have a direct correlation to a higher divorce rate. (for

example, see this study

<https://ifstudies.org/blog/counterintuitive-trends-in-the-link-between-premarital-sex-and-marital-stability>)

Sex is a symbol of uniting souls, and souls were meant to be united forever. Our bodies, however beautiful and healthy, are still imperfect. Physical dysfunction of the body should not be a barrier when one understands that in the resurrection, all bodies will be healed to an optimally functioning state. Marriage is intended to last forever. God is married, and participates in all the joys of marriage, including sexual intimacy. Things on earth are a likeness of how they are in heaven. Make no mistake about it, in heaven, people have bodies, and so do God and his wife. Remember, after 3 days Jesus rose from the tomb with his body again! So will we too rise someday soon when Jesus Christ returns to earth. Marriage and sex are a foresight of what life can be at its best. If we are righteous, we will be allowed to keep our marriages and the sex that goes with them. If we are not righteous, we will lose our partner, and the privileges we once had with them. Sex functions in marriage for 2 things: bonding/fun, and reproduction. We are not expected to reproduce every time we mate, God allows sexual union to be a source of happiness to strengthen marriages. Sex outside of marriage often leads to separation, which brings more sorrow than we need to endure. To give one's body is to give the entire self, and such a gift should only be given to someone with whom you agree to share every other part of life with. Animals have sex with anyone recreationally, but we are not animals, but are the Lords of animals, to rule over them, because our ways are higher than their ways. If you wish to read an excellent speech on the spiritual meaning of sex, read this talk "Of Souls, Symbols, and Sacraments" (https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/jeffrey-r-holland_souls-symbols-sacraments/).

The speaker Elder Holland identifies sex as a symbolic action which represents obtaining the power of God to create life. He teaches of God's great future plans for marriages, and why sex is designed for marriage and marriage alone. God has designed

many symbols to teach us with, and sex is certainly one of the foremost of those.

Christ said that our bodies are temples. With the understanding of why some can enter and some cannot into the temples, we will also understand why we shouldn't offer our bodies to others freely. The terms are specific.

As I wrote in my essay "Can Heaven Be Better Than Marriage?", trailing thoughts from Truman Madsen's writings, "Some have thought that a temple marriage simply makes a marriage valid to last forever. This is true, but the deeper event that takes place in a temple marriage is that a relationship is formed and refined across the years with the added companionship and cleansing effect of the Holy Ghost, which gives that marriage character of such a union that it's worth staying together forever. We're not just getting permission to stay together forever, we're getting help to make something worth lasting forever."

As for divorce: the statistics of Utah divorce are significantly lower than the national average. However, as the national divorce rate climbs, so does the rate of divorce in Utah. Similarly, the national average of children born to a family is lower than the average of Utah children born, and as that national average goes down, that of the church follows in that direction. We can't help but be impacted by the society we live in.

Cor-law.com for example says "Utah's divorce rate is half of that at 15.9%. The national average for divorce still wanes between 40-50%." (<https://www.cor-law.com/blog/why-utah-has-the-lowest-divorce-rate-and-become-the-happiest-state-in-the-u-s.html>)

On plots that show Utah to be similar to or even worse than national averages on divorce, they are likely not considering the fact that many more people in Utah get married in the first place

than do outside of Utah. Given the higher marriage rate, it would follow that the divorce number would be higher, even though the percentage of divorces is lower in Utah than nationally.

As for pornography, I have not researched this topic, but if it's true that Utah citizens use more pornography, perhaps one reason could be that the taller they stand the harder they fall. Perhaps many do feel they have failed and allow themselves to "go all out" in their debauchery from a feeling that they have "lost everything". Hopefully users of pornography who disregard the sacredness of life can learn that they can be forgiven of their sins and again become worthy of exaltation in the celestial kingdom.

I can say that generally speaking, it's fairly common for church members to be known as people who avoid things like pornography. Many make fun of them for their family centered faith. Church members in Utah confront peer pressure from not only outside of the church, but inside it, to do stupid things. Wayward youth in the church say things like "but I'm a member too, and I do it!". This type of peer pressure is not found nearly as much in places like Georgia, where church members are fewer, and they have an easier time saying, "I can't I'm a member of The Church of Jesus Christ". I have been very impressed when visiting other states to see the strength of the youth in the church there.

Surely Satan is attacking Utah and launches much of his propaganda toward this the "lifeforce/heart" of the church. For example, one professional (Anne Tracy president of drugawareness.org) claims that a higher use of antidepressants in Utah can be tied to a conspiracy of drug companies who want to tear down the family values in Utah as a "last stand" state who still believes in strong family values; those values being a great thing in the way of them more fully taking power in their industry, a thing that stands in the way of more people needing their product. Thus, much of their advertisements, their peddlers etc., focus on Utah.

Prophets have said that Utah will be known as a place where both the most righteous and the most evil people of the whole earth can be found.

1st talk in the book by Pres. Packer: Love: Collection of Discourses by Bookcraft – Highlights (Get the title)

-he wishes he could wrap up the word marriage and put it in a special box hand crafted and gently open the box to help us appreciate what it means.

-it's better to marry again if your spouse dies, for marriage is a beautiful thing.

Brethren, Love your wives by Elder James E Faust of the Quorum of the Twelve: July 1981

wife in home work does more than man career -Pres. Faust do what your wife suggests you do

wife is one with us, and to be loved as we love ourselves.

admit faults like Pres. Faust

we can be polite if we try.

how expect God honor me if I not honor my spouse?

a large part of the gospel is taking care of your spouse.

disabilities can teach us compassion.

No Sexual Perversions in Marriage

There should be no sexual perversions in marriage taught President Spencer W. Kimball.

He taught that not only should there be complete fidelity in marriage and all sexual relations reserved for marriage, but that there should also be no sexual perversions in marriage.

What this means must be pondered upon with the assistance of the Holy Ghost, and here I make a few suggestions.

The use of pornography in marriage as some sort of sexual training tool was attempted by some in the church such as therapists etcetera president Hinckley said that is not appropriate Urging one's partner to intercourse and such as not wanted can we come abusive must be monitored. Jason Carroll at BYU a professor of Family Life reminds his students that being married to someone does not give unlimited access to them and that all courtesy and respect should be showed to one another, especially when sensitive issues exist in the psychology or physiology have one of the married persons.

Two-thirds of women over the age of 30 struggle with fertility issues, and a couple must take into account tender feelings associated with intercourse and the frequent loss associated with it.

Sexual acts which are not observed in nature should be avoided. There is one course which provides pleasure to the man and woman which is the biological natural method. Intercourse is a natural act, and methods should be limited to those which occur in nature, all within the confines of marriage. Not only do we mirror nature as a measuring rod of parameters, we also recognize the dignity of humanity, and how all tenderness and respect should prevail in a relationship.

Public modesty of married people must continue as it did before their marriage. Moderate public display of affection is a sign of a healthy marriage, but a couple should not attempt to draw too much attention to the sacred parts of their bodies. Full viewing access to a body is reserved to the person to whom they have promised their whole soul.

Modesty should exist even in the home, even when children are not present. The garment is to be worn at all times day and night with exception of intercourse. One should not take the covenant garment lightly either by not wearing it for prolonged periods, or by only wearing it and nothing else through the home.

Use of contraceptives is not prohibited in the church priesthood manual used by bishops and giving formal council to the saints. However it does say in the same that the commandment to multiply and replenish the Earth is still in force. Historically, prophets have cast great caution regarding the use of contraceptives, and one would do well to consider the depths of the eternal holiness of childbearing.

The priesthood leadership manual states that sexual relations serve the purpose of both pleasure and childbearing. That leaves family planning issues between the couple and the Lord. Let us be reminded of the many sermons of old and of present day which suggest the great pleasure the Lord has in a couple who attempts to be fruitful.

Some prophets voiced an opinion that there should be no closed door regarding children to a home. Recently as 2017 check the date elder Anderson an address entitled children when he reminded us the children are not a hobby but rather a commandment. Other times prophets have suggested in plain terms that those who fail to use procreative powers to procreate will be denied those privileges in the world to come.

Any form of manipulation of one's partner with sex as a tool of bargaining would not please the Lord. Lengthy periods refusing to give oneself one spouse would not please the Lord.

Abstinence in marriage often reflects contention. Some health conditions such as physical or emotional trauma may necessitate abstinence in marriage for a short or long season, but where this is not critical for health and is rather an issue of pride, there sin lies at the door.

Let us remember the happy fact that the resurrection will reward faithful stewards with celestial bodies, which far surpass the blessedness of healthy bodies in this telestial world. Ever since the fall of Adam the human race has been less than ideal physically. That will be remediated in the near future when the Lord initiates the morning of the resurrection.

Brigham Young taught that exalted man and woman will become more beautiful than can now be comprehended in the celestial day. He urged saints to not separate due to such trivial things as appearances. He said he would take a woman with a head 3 feet wide if she were true and faithful in the gospel. He understood the doctrine of the resurrection which clearly states that all will come into the likeness of God as they follow his path.

Failure to maintain one's health is a form of marital betrayal. To think that your era of courting is ended just because you made vows together is folly and will not carry enough inertia to coast you into the celestial realms together.

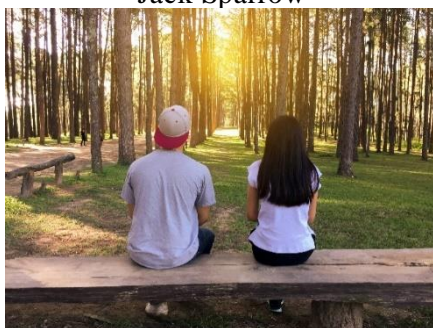
It is the duty of a married person to maintain their attractiveness and appeal to their mate so they can have abiding joy in one another's company. Careful attention should be given to the word of wisdom regarding health in the scriptures. Regular exercise has also been encouraged by prophets wise men and scientists, as it is calculated to increase beauty, peace, and connection to the spiritual nature of our souls.

Refusal to spend time together and recreational activities in regular dates can lead just sexual frustration. Marriage requires time together serving one another love me stay fresh throughout life.

Sexual dissatisfaction is, as President Kimball and many social scientists today teach, one of the, if not the single greatest, predictor of divorce. While attending to their individualized specific needs, a couple can reject the false doctrines and traditions of our day, and avoid the calamity associated with perverting the holy relationship of marriage.

The Doctrine of Opportune Moments: Priorities of a Successful Saint

“If you were waiting for the opportune moment, that was it!” -
Jack Sparrow



It seems to me that there are certain ideal or opportune moments wherein if we act, we will succeed. Consider the following evidences:

(A somewhat related note: Truman G Madsen speaks of how apparently women have a particular sense of timing, they know things before men, they can discern things spiritually and be prepared to act on them quickly, whereas for men it often requires prolonged reasoning and milling it over.)

-According to Sean Covey author of “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”, 90% of being successful is just showing up. That means all we do that day matters little compared to the monumental moment of showing up, and that on time too.

-When it comes to school, it’s all based on turning in assignments, and scoring well on exams. Let everything else fall apart and do whatever you want throughout the semester with your time, but so long as you are successful in these 2 items, you

will do excellently in the class, and receive an excellent grade to show for it.

-For unmarried people: dating can be a numbers game. In other words, you must spend lots of time dating to find a combatable partner. Show up to the date. Show up to the prayer consultation with Father in Heaven after the date. Show up to ask her to marry you. Perform these steps over and over and you're bound to get it right, and within a respectable time frame as well.

-For families: have the weekly family night, the weekly couples date, the parent child outings & interviews & blessings, tell the bedtime stories, log 15 minutes or more per day playing with your child/children, make enough money to pay the modest expenses, pray with your family daily morning and night including scripture study with them daily, take them to church weekly. Do these things regularly, religiously, faithfully, making them regular appointments not to be missed, and you will do well. It has been said by a prophet that anyone can serve a mission, but it takes a true disciple to lead a family in righteousness. Do these things, and they will not solve all your problems, but they will be the springboard for you to successfully solve all your problems.

-College for the family-oriented person? It involves beauty and joyful discovery and scientific mastery in the field of the heart, but only inasmuch as such pursuit does not get in the way of meeting the needs of the family. The family oriented genuine student also cares but little for the fanfare of the world, the titles and letters, but realizes that learning does not stop with university, it continues indefinitely, daily, in powerful non-formal and sometimes formal avenues with the advent of the internet and affordable / easily accessible books of all sorts.

-The family-oriented learner and career man is foremost guided by this truth: he will care for his family first and foremost forever. He will let nothing get in the way of his family. If he foresees a certain size of family, or a certain gift for his family which is Holiness to the Lord, he will break through heaven and

hell to bring it about. He is as the Puritan of old, who will die before seeing someone else provide for his own, and who will build his own coffin. He knows that any failure in his designs are his fault alone. He takes risks, oh does he! But those risks are risks in the right direction, not risks which pull him in the wrong direction. He brings all things together in one in Christ, and ministers with holiness and rigorous balance of his difficult affairs.

-The family-oriented man does much good in many fields, but he knows how to prioritize family relationships and duties above all else. Yes, he impacts the community and world, and that generationally and exponentially, but first and foremost, he impacts his family generationally. He does family history work, but he also does family future work. He understands that the core way that he ministers to the whole world is by ministering to those in his own home. He foresees the future, wherein his children grow to fill the world as salt and leaven for the whole. Every lesson he teaches at home is worth 100 lessons taught at the pulpit or the town square, or the social media group, etc. He calculates to bless the entire world and derives this power to bless from the work done in his home.

-Joseph Smith taught that the man filled with the love of God will not be content with ministering to his family alone but will seek to range though the world blessing the entire human race. This however does not excuse man from his home duties. In the D&C, the prophet Joseph is chastised by the Lord for not caring sufficiently to his family duties. If even this grand archangel brother Joseph can be at fault in this, oh how we need be vigilant! As Moroni said, if there be fault, we seek to do well and learn from it. And oh, the courage of the traveling missionary! This is good doctrine, we can taste it. But it has its time and season. One missionary reluctant to return home for the mission field was asked by a wise leader, 'what is it that you fear upon returning home? Do you not know that there is much work you must do there yet for the building of the kingdom of God in earth?' Let the family man also find ways to reach far and wide while ministering to his family. For example, he might write a

book which can teach others in his absence, and his writings he may use the great latter-day tool of the worldwide internet web to send his messages repeatedly and instantly to the far ends of the earth. Let the man of God fear no pain in fulfilling all his duties, for life is short, and the coming of the Lord is at hand. The judgement of him who is righteous is soon to burst upon us like the morning rays!

What Happens When You Don't Honor Chastity? Analysis of an Honest Song on the Trial of Beautiful Womanhood

“Golden Age” by Ethel Cain

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=WFE_jizgyDc

This song shows several important themes.

One is how beauty is a heavy trial, that few can stand it, like riches. Surely the beautiful woman is tempted toward vanity on many levels, and few can resist. Beauty is a blessing which can quickly turn into a curse. It is great power, great responsibility, and many fall under it, giving in to the evil lusts for the power such a body can bring over others. There is with it also the temptation of refusing to bare children, lest the body begin to fade, and that power diminish.

Further, this song is the story of a woman who never developed herself, because she didn't have to. Love came easy. All the wrong kinds of love.

Disenchantment is the natural result.

We attract not what we want, but what we are. If all you are is beautiful and superficial that's the kind of men you'll attract.

Also women end up in this love rollercoaster because they've given up on virtue and morality. They have no idea what the consequences are when they start it, but eventually it leaves them wasted.

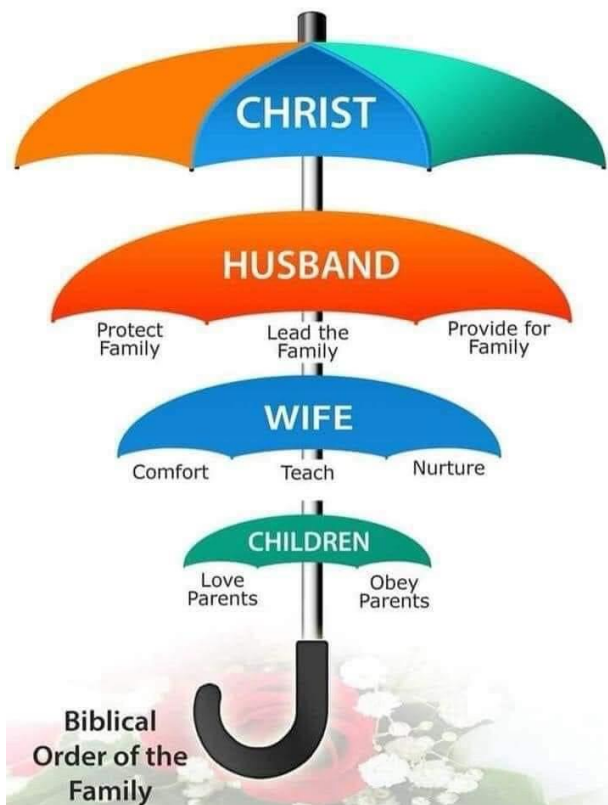
If women demanded more of men, they'd get it. But since women have made sex cheap, men don't develop themselves much either.

That song really reflects the social decay in our day and age.

Special thanks to John Peterson for discussing this song with me and sharing some of these insights.

The Presiding Tree

Image Source unknown:



Naturally we could add detail to this tree. There are many bible references which validate it.

Above Christ is Heavenly Father, and upward forever. But the order and positions remain the same as we rise together.

We will always be under Christ, He will always be our path to the Father. When we move up, it isn't putting us beside Christ, but he goes up too. We all go up together, and the order continues.

An interesting analogy with this is represented in the godhead:

Father (Heavenly Father), Son (Christ), Holy Ghost (husband).

Another trinity could be represented thus:

Father (Christ), Son (husband), Holy Ghost (mother).

Then there is an earthly trinity which it further represents:

Father (husband), Son (wife), Holy Ghost (children).

The woman will always work beside the husband, taking direction from him, as he is directed by the Lord.

So this whole tree could perhaps be better represented as a horizontal line than a vertical line.

Remember, we aren't interested in usurping authority, or unnatural discipline.

When considering levels of Godhead, the wives are included on each level. Heavenly Mother can be represented alongside Heavenly Father, neither is complete without the other.

Examples:

(Savior/Mary Magdalene)

(Joseph Jr./Eliza R.)

(Father/Mother)

(Man/Wife)

(son/daughter-in-law)

Father Presides at Home

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands, in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ

also loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish, so ought men to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife, loveth himself, for no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church, for we are members of His body, of His flesh, and His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh” (Ephesians 5:22–31).¹⁷

the word president comes from "preside". So, if two preside... they are co-presidents?

from the entire quorum of the twelve in 2002 they made many points but these are some relevant to this discussion.

“Your fatherhood is, in a sense, an apprenticeship to godhood.

...You are the presiding authority in the home.

...The Church exists to assist you to return with your family to the presence of our Father in Heaven.

...You must seek the Spirit of the Lord in leading your family.

...The mother sustains the father and is his helpmeet, his counselor.

...You and your wife are one in purpose.(not one in authority- this is my comment)

...You have the responsibility to lead your family by: Governing, correcting, nurturing, and blessing them in meekness, tenderness, and love on the principles of righteousness” the entire twelve. It was first sent out in 1973 and then republished and renewed in 2002

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/06/father-consider-your-ways?id=p42&lang=eng#p42>

These things all make it pretext clear that the Father is the highest authority although they are equal in purpose and accountability to God in fulfilling their coequal roles. Equality is not the same as authority. The woman needs to feel safe and at ease, letting go of that

masculine energy, so that she can concentrate on magnifying that nurturing role that will crumble the family if it does not exist. Imho anyway.

"Mothers, teach your children in the home the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Sustain your husband in his presidency of the home. Draw from the Priesthood Home Teaching program, from the Relief Society, and the other auxiliary agencies of the Church the assistance to bless your family." Boyd k packer gen conf 1964 April

"There are three natural levels of family organizations, and an individual might belong to more than one. Immediate families, with the father as president or natural patriarch and the mother as partner and counselor to her husband, meet in weekly family home evenings and frequent family councils, creating an organization to meet the family's particular needs. (The mother is head of the family if the father is not at home)"

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1978/10/getting-and-keeping-the-family-together?id=p37&lang=eng#p37>

Speaking of Joseph Smith's final words to the relief society sisters it is recorded "He exhorted the sisters always to concentrate their faith and prayers for, and place confidence in their husbands, whom God has appointed for them to honor, and in those faithful men whom God has placed at the head of the Church to lead His people; that we should arm and sustain them with our prayers; for the keys of the kingdom are about to be given to them, that they may be able to detect everything false; as well as to all the Elders who shall prove their integrity in due season."

Tpjs 226

1 Peter 3

5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

"Imagine, for example, the confusion that would result if two bishops

were appointed over your particular ward and the first one got up in sacrament meeting and announced that the following Sunday the sacrament meeting would be held one hour earlier. While he was making his announcement, suppose the second bishop stood up and expressed his desire that the sacrament meeting be held at the original time. With two people presiding, would democratic principles work? Suppose you had two stake presidents, two elders quorum presidents, two Sunday School presidents, two Primary and Relief Society presidents presiding over each of the priesthood quorums, groups, and auxiliaries. How would the Church function? Would “law and order” prevail? Similarly, should two people preside over each other in a marriage, particularly when one holds the priesthood and has been divinely designated to preside?”

Strengthening the Patriarchal Order in the Home

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1973/02/strengthening-the-patriarchal-order-in-the-home?id=p16&lang=eng#p16>

.....

Certainly Paul was on to something when he said a man should treat his wife as the church.

His job is to save His family, even give his life as Christ did for the Church. A woman’s job is to find such a man, and support him.

Any man is in a predicament right now to find a woman that actually believes Christian principles of feminine submission.

.....

A husband is facing a mountain of water sure to drown and crush him. What’s the point of giving everything for a spouse to raise a family that fundamentally does not believe Gods counsel and will therefore not act to qualify for the blessings needed in the marriage to overcome the world? A young man aspiring to exaltation and looking

for a like-minded women to marry, is most likely totally overwhelmed and discouraged right about now, with good reason.

The Inability to Publish Pro "Family Proclamation" Research, 'Won't Pass Peer Review'

Here is an admission that you can't get something printed in an academic journals that's pro family proclamation
<https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2023/01/29/byu-faculty-urged-align-their/>

"...there is virtually no chance that, say, a research article in favor of the family proclamation," Austin said, "is going to pass peer review."

Related: BYU raises hiring standards?

<https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2022/03/10/new-employment-policy/>

<https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2022/11/28/byu-i-instructors-fired-failing/>

Marriage Council Video Links

Ben Shapiro on Successful Marriage

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeQG_Nju0QM

Ben Shapiro on Relationships

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKuvVMYcPIU>

Ben Shapiro on Why to Marry Young - Highlights

<https://youtu.be/NCDggWIqtGo>

Shapiro and his wife were 24 and 20 at their marriage, and he explains why the 10 years delayed marriage is destroying society and how we have completely lost the meaning and order of marriage and relationships.

They speak of the importance of living with one's spouse, not living then finding a spouse. A spouse knows who you really are because they've known you from your youth, and they can call you out when you get off track.

They speak of maturity for voting, that most 18-year-olds (other than the military personnel) aren't mature enough to vote, they have no stakes in the game.

They speak of some positivity in marriage being delayed until young adulthood, not just the onset of puberty.

Shapiro and his colleges point out that it's strange for children to be allowed gender choice for life at a very young age like 5. This is not

consistent with the legal age of adulthood and mature independent decision making.

Shapiro and his wife have a rule that only one of them is allowed to be grumpy at once. When one is grumpy, the other is not, and they take turns.

The men on the show married young and poor and turned out successful. They attribute their marriages as what helped them find success. I can agree with this and have a very similar story.

I agree and add that being single is not a normal state, in Hebrew culture you were most wierd if you were single. Sure some draw the short straw, but lets not deliberately avoid marriage!

Authorized Marriage like the Marriage of Adam & Eve, Not to Worry

6.29.23

God gave Adam his wife Eve. It seems Adam had it easy in deciding who to marry. It was an arranged marriage, you could say. It may be disparaging to consider that we have to make so great a choice. But consider this. When an authorized marriage takes place, that marriage is the event of God giving that wife to you. It is the same as when Eve was given to Adam. Once she is given to you, you have full approval and authorization from God. That marriage is as holy, as foreordained, as important as the marriage of Adam to Eve.

Resources on Marriage

- Assorted Resources on Marriage Etc. at Marriage by the Church Newsroom
- Homage to the Home: Why Society Needs Strong Families by the Church Newsroom
- The Divine Institution of Marriage by the Church Newsroom

- The Family: A Proclamation to The World, 1995
- The Proclamation on the Family: Transcending the Cultural Confusion By Elder Bruce C. Hafen
- John Gottman is a Jewish scholar well known among social scientists for his work on marriage and families. He has published many books.
- FamilyWatch.org - family law current events, free newsletter
- TruthAboutPorn.org
- Jason Carroll – BYU Family Life professor
- David Dollahite – BYU Family Life professor
- Jordan Peterson – gender, psychology, organization, motivation, history
- Loren Marks – refutes APA homosexual parenting claims, etc. – BYU Family Life professor
- Mark Butler – LDS Addiction book, etc. – BYU Family Life professor
- John Gottman – marriage, parenting, renown Jewish scholar
- John L Lund - on criticism etc
- Phyllis Shlafley
- Mark Regnerus: premarital sex in America; cheap sex the transformation of men marriage and monogamy

Jesus Was Married (add to)

according to the legend his wife Mary Magdalene moved with relatives to France.

& I think I heard that their daughters were named Alsace & Lorraine and gave names to the two French regions. But this is sketchy, not the story about France, but about the two said French regions.

Jesus lived during His scripturally omitted youth years with His uncle (cousin?) Joseph of Arimathea in Glastonbury, England. There are many traditions & genealogies in both the UK and the Republic of Ireland about the lost ten tribes of Israel.

Marriage & Family Resources

[Biblical Womanhood Books I Recommend – The Transformed Wife](#)

