

Family and Godhead in the Plan of Salvation – by Nate Richardson 12-14-17

<u>Typical Kingdom / Era / Purpose:</u>	<u>Telestial / Premortal / Preparatory</u>	<u>Terrestrial / Mortality / Perform</u>	<u>Celestial / Post-Mortality / Complete</u>
<u>Qualified Ministrants / Prototypes to Emulate:</u>	Holy Ghost (unembodied)	Jesus Christ (embodied)	Heavenly Father (perfectly / indestructibly / perpetually embodied)
<u>Key Family Oriented Elements:</u>	Testify of God our Father and his family based plan	Selfless sacrifice in adhering to God's laws in relationships; Family based priorities	Use of family unit to achieve theosis (theosis= human becoming God); Perpetuate family structure
<u>Temple Connections:</u>	Faith in & covenant with deity required to succeed and pass into next phase	Covering boy as a symbol of temples as sacred vs profane space. Discriminatory relationships.	Marriage as a type/symbol of reunion with presence of God. Procreative marriage a foretaste of theosis
<u>Perfect Faith Required for Salvation (2 Ne. 9:23): 3 Elements of Faith adapted from Joseph Smith</u>	Know the characteristics of God. Believe in God and chose his plan.	Know that you are living in accordance to God's expectations. Emulate Jesus Christ the Son of God. We are also sons of God.	Receive all promised blessings.
<u>Role of Scripture:</u>	Motivate creations to adopt creator's philosophy.	Execute scripture (law) from our creator.	Create scripture for your creations.
<u>Success Rate:</u>	2/3 success 1/3 defect to perdition	Narrow path, but only a few defect to perdition.	Many called, few chosen for theosis. However, God's mercy and justice provide alternate kingdoms for inferior levels of performance.
<u>Prevailing Expectation:</u>	Receive	Give	Receive and Give in eternal balance.
<u>Vision / Perspective:</u>	See the plan	Operate the plan (without "seeing" it) Probation / Test / Exam	See & show "one eternal round"
<u>Family Stage:</u>	Family orientation	Family creation	Perpetual Families; Create and orient your creation
<u>Prevailing Sentiment</u>	Rejoice (Job 37:8)	Weep (Isa. 53:3)	Eternal balance of rejoicing and weeping (Isa. 25:8; Moses 7:29-37)

### **Notes: 3 Purposes, 7 Processes, 3 Principles**

Purpose 1: The purpose of the family is to go on to exaltation, and participate in the eternal creation of more family units on a larger scale. Without the perpetuation of the family unit in eternity, the family is vain and will come to an end. There is no beginning of souls, they existed in the beginning with God, and they must go on forever. Even the damned will continue to exist forever, for they have no beginning, so they can have no end. The ultimate expression of the divine is that a family emulates the creative aspects of God.

Purpose 2: The purpose of studying the word of God in family settings is to express the message that the entire plan of salvation is based on the family unit. The religions of this world lack an understanding of the perpetuation of the family. The family must be together in heaven, and without this view, the family will lose motivation for virtuous livelihoods. The entire system of life is based on creation and edification of family units, and if those are to fall away in heaven, both the lack of will to do good for heaven and the will to do good for mortality vanish.

Purpose 3: The purpose of modest dress is to protect the chastity of women. Modest dress is additionally to represent the divine nature of the body, which should not be accessible to the general public, just like a temple and God's kingdom. The temple is not open enrollment, and God's university is thus scorned by the secular masses, but we have seen in social science that immodest dress is a type of how when the sacred is offered at large to the profane, then the relationship system fails. The relationships without the backbone of covenants fall apart as quickly as sand in one's hand. If women become unchaste, they lose the appreciation for themselves, and forget divine ideals and possibilities.

Process 1: A family must use the standard words as the key focus of their study, so they cannot reasonably deny the requirements of God's law to inherit salvation. The laws for salvation are contained in the standard works, and without their application, the preaching of the word of God does not occur, and the faith needed for salvation cannot be obtained. The individual matter of salvation becomes unavailable, and the higher family matter of exaltation becomes void.

Process 2: The family must teach each other the non-biological aspects of the plan of salvation by instructing in the value of relationships rather than mere animalistic approach to courtship. If a couple will court each other just for sexual attraction, they are forgetting about needed components of marital stability and overall happiness (including sexual intercourse frequency). The plan of God is designed to enable spirits in bodies to have eternal joy, but the spirit aspect of the body cannot be overlooked if this is to be successful.

Process 3: The family must emphasize the importance of selfless love in the mortality phase of God's plan. If the family will do this, the candidates for salvation will learn obedience by the things they suffer. The call to follow Christ is a call to suffer, and the world of false churches often go wrong on this point alone: that the path of Christ is not an easy path (though it is more easy than suffering in hell, as Christ said). Only by following Christ can any person, along with their hopes and dreams, attain divine goals, including marriage and continuing parenthood.

Process 4 : The family must understand their role as testators, similar to the Holy Ghost. If the family will testify of the divinity of God to each other in their times of need, they will gain the strength they need to overcome their trials. Faith comes by hearing the word of God, and without this, the candidates cannot gain faith. Salvation is impossible to obtain without perfect faith as the Book of Mormon says, and thus hearing the word of God is essential to spiritual growth. The Holy Ghost is a person, this makes it easy for us to emulate him in our relationships. We can know truth just like he can.

Process 5: The family must worship God at the temple in order to understand the "why" of modest dress. Not only is there a strict code of modesty inside the temple, but there is also a symbol of modesty there which communicates essential lessons for why we cover our bodies. The scriptures say that Christ covered Adam and Eve in coats of skins. Skins are the result of slain beasts, like the Lamb of God being slain. The sacrifice of Christ is essential to our protection. We profane ourselves via sin, and Christ puts his life on the line and ultimately on the altar for our sakes to cover our sins and bring us back to the ways of God, away from our fallen ways. When we learn that there is sacred space and profane space, we will understand the need to cover our bodies as a symbol that we are willing to obey the laws of God even when it seems non-sensical to ourselves.

Process 6: The family must study the role of Father in Heaven. Without this understanding, they will not have hope of a glorious future. The perfections of Heavenly Father and the splendid roles he operates (including the divine weeping for souls in trial) give us hope that heaven will be more than strumming harps, and that there is a meaning to suffering which enables faith in God and in relationships even in hard times. The relationship will survive longer and

even forever if we maintain faith in God, heaven, and a benevolent future. This will empower selfless love needed to maintain relationships with fellow imperfect beings.

Process 7: The family must repent of all their sins in order to stay together in eternity. All candidates of the family must be clean before being permitted into the presence of God. If the family does well but one individual does not, then the family will exist in the kingdom of God without the unclean member, for nothing can undo the laws of God. The mercy of Christ is operational only for repentant souls. Repentance is the benevolent key to unlock the otherwise forbidden doors of heaven, where only the just dwell. Christ was required to obey the law of God, and so are we. For us, one of the laws of God includes repentance, and we cannot be saved without it.

Principle 1: If God is worshiped by each member of the family individually and together in the home on a daily basis, the family will grow closer to each other. This means that the contrary is also true, namely that without God, relationships cannot thrive. If the individuals are left to themselves to find their way through the wilderness of life, they will be eaten by the wolves of secularism after becoming spiritually blind via their close-mindedness toward God. I use the word worship because it suggests the comparative might of God juxtaposed to the weakness of man. The family togetherness component is essential as the family and home are the laboratory to the human breed.

Principle 2: If marriage candidates value God's standards including particularly the modesty regulations, then they will have a marriage void of the strife aspect of eros love. This means that eros love while being a good thing ( a love of physical beauty), if not contained within the parameters the Lord has set, will be fundamentally destructive toward any relationship. To think that a couple can consider the bodies things to be taken lightly and still expect the favor and grace of God in their relationship, then their hopes are founded upon something totally in contradiction to the very plan of salvation, which focuses on the incorporation of spirits on an earth as a primary element of moral examination. To put it simply, to misuse the body is to fail the key question in the test of the human being. The immodest person either knowingly or unknowingly denies God by denying faith in his plan of happiness. His plan of happiness entails virtue in marriage covenants, and the body being a temple, the candidate is denying the sacredness of the human nature as being an embryonic deity. This negation of truth leads to the impossibility of exaltation.

Principle 3: If humans emulate the Godhead in their aspirations for family success and efforts to activate the plan of redemption, they will progress together toward exaltation. This means that each member of the Godhead plays a distinct role, and family members can emulate that person in each stage. In pre-mortality we emulated the Holy Ghost in testifying of the reality of God and his plans efficacy. In mortality we walk the earth like Jesus Christ and take up our crosses doing our best like he did his best. In post-mortality we emulate Heavenly Father in the creation of spirit children and touring them through pre, post, and mortalities of their own. This aspect of sacrificial love in mortality is the glue which will hold family relationships together, and the post mortality aspect allows the perpetuation of the family system through eternity.