



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 45

The Family Is Ordained of God

"We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles, ... 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." (Proclamation on the Family)

A study of this lesson will help us understand the eternal importance of the family and inspire us to strengthen our families.

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "Why do we have this proclamation on the family now? Because the family is under attack. All across the world families are falling apart. The place to begin to improve society is in the home. Children do, for the most part, what they are taught. We are trying to make the world better by making the family stronger." (Ensign, Aug 1997, p5)

President Spencer W. Kimball: "To those who might decry marriage or postpone it or forbid it Paul spoke, condemning them. It is generally selfishness, cold and self-centered, which leads people to shun marriage responsibility. There are many who talk and write against marriage. Even some of our own delay marriage and argue against it. To all who are deceived by these 'doctrines of devils,' we urge the return to normalcy. We call upon all people to accept normal marriage as a basis for true happiness. The Lord did not give sex to man for a plaything. Basically marriage presupposes a family." (Ensign, May 1974, p6)

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "Not only was marriage instituted by the Lord to endure eternally, but it also naturally follows that the same is true of the family. The plan given in the gospel for the government of man on this earth is typical of the laws governing in the kingdom of God. Is it possible to imagine a greater source of sorrow than to be left in the eternal world without claim on father or mother or children?" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:65)

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "Outside of the celestial kingdom there is no family organization. That organization is reserved for those who are willing to abide in every covenant and every obligation which we are called upon to receive while we sojourn here in this mortal life." (Ibid., 2: 67)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "When your children ask why we marry in the temple, you should teach them that temples are the only places on the earth where certain ordinances may be performed. You should also share with your children your

personal feelings as you knelt together before the sacred altar and took upon yourselves covenants which made it possible for them to be sealed to you forever." (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p258)

President Harold B. Lee: "Satan's greatest threat today is to destroy the family, and to make a mockery of the law of chastity and the sanctity of the marriage covenant. I read something just the other day, where someone blatantly had said, 'What difference does a ring and a piece of paper make in the relationship of a man and woman in human relationships?' What a tragedy to have that kind of thought thrown before our people! God forbid that the young people of this day will ever fall prey to that kind of satanic suggestion, because therein is the greatest thrust that Satan can have in our day; and anyone who is fostering that kind of dogma, we ought to do all in our power to see that he no longer has sway among us." (Teachings of Harold B. Lee, p227)

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "Parents are commanded to teach their children to understand the principles of the gospel from their earliest childhood; to teach them to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Jesus Christ, the ordinance of baptism for the remission of sins and to pray, before they reach the age of accountability, so that they will know why these ordinances and principles are essential parts of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (D. & C. 68:25-28.) If parents neglect this important duty then the sin will rest on the parents." (Answers To Gospel Questions, 2:89)

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "The thought of a nation without the family unit as its fundamental foundation; where all the citizens are, comparatively, strangers to each other, and where natural affection is not found; where no family ties bind the groups together, is one of horror. Such a condition could lead to but one end-anarchy and dissolution." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:66)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 57:1-3; 64:33-43; 82:14-15; 97:8-28; 105:1-12;
Moses 7:12-19, 61-63, 68-69; Articles of Faith 1:10;
Our Heritage, pages 37-38, 145-46