

December 13–19

The Family: A Proclamation to the World

"The Family is Central to the Creator's Plan"



Boyd K. Packer

“A proclamation in the Church is a significant, major announcement. Very few of them have been issued from the beginning of the Church. They are significant; they are revelatory. And at that time, this was a little more than 10 years ago, the Brethren issued ‘The Family: A Proclamation to the World.’ It is scripture-like in its power.” (Worldwide Leadership Training Broadcast, 9 Feb. 2008)

Boyd K. Packer

“When you wonder why we are the way we are and why we do the things we do and why we will not do some of the things that we will not do, you can find the authority for that in this proclamation on the family.”
(Worldwide Leadership Training Broadcast, 9 Feb. 2008)

Claudio R. M. Costa

“On September 23, 1995, the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles introduced to the Church and the world a document called ‘The Family: A Proclamation to the World.’ I quote from the paragraph which reads, ‘Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children.’ We live in a day and age in which this counsel is indeed very important. Many parents argue they don't have time for their families. The fast-paced lifestyle of modern-day life and excessive amounts of work are curbing parents' attention from what is most important: to give time, to give of oneself to one's family.” (CR, Oct. 2007)

Claudio R. M. Costa

“The Lord taught us that every man has the responsibility to provide for his family, but that does not mean solely to store up the house with food and other items which are needed or desired....

“In the family proclamation we also learn that ‘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.’” (CR, Oct. 2007)

D&C 75:28

And again, verily I say unto you, that every man who is obliged to provide for his own family, let him provide, and he shall in nowise lose his crown; and let him labor in the church.

David O. McKay

“Motherhood is the greatest potential influence either for good or ill in human life. The mother’s image is the first that stamps itself on the unwritten page of the young child’s mind. It is her caress that first awakens a sense of security; her kiss, the first realization of affection; her sympathy and tenderness, the first assurance that there is love in the world.”

Claudio R. M. Costa

“The Lord instructed us how to take care of our families when He told us through His prophets in the proclamation to the world, ‘Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve one another, to observe the commandments of God and to be law-abiding citizens wherever they live.’” (CR, Oct. 2007)

Boyd K. Packer

“When you young people who now look forward to marriage and a family life look around and see the dangers, there is only one place on this earth where the family can be fully protected, and that’s within the ordinances and the doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Live the gospel, and you’re going to be all right.

“The world isn’t a very pleasant place to live in, and there are challenges and disorders and patterns of life and death and all of the problems that come to us, and yet the answers are found in understanding that the family is the fundamental unit of the Church. All of the activities of the Church are calculated to strengthen the family.

“Sometimes we may move a little away from our position of supporting families to having the families responsible to support the Church. Local leaders need to use care in organizing activities and programs of the Church to bring the young men and young women forward and prepare them for married life and then help them in their early marriage years and on to old age.” (Worldwide Leadership Training Broadcast, 9 Feb. 2008)

Claudio R. M. Costa

“It is in the home that the family learns and applies gospel principles. Great love is necessary in order to teach and guide a family. Loving fathers and mothers will teach their children to worship God in their home. When a worshipping spirit permeates the home, that spirit is extended into the life of each family member. This will prepare them to make whatever sacrifice is necessary to be able to return to God's presence and stay together as a family for all eternity.” (CR, Oct. 2007)

Claudio R. M. Costa

“We know God has taught us for centuries how to protect and take care of our families. We also know and can see that the adversary has been attacking the family. Now is the time to use all those teachings. Now is the time to perform our God-given duties concerning the family.” (CR, Oct. 2007)

David O. McKay saw this attack on the family coming...

“The home is the first and most effective place to learn the lessons of life: truth, honor, virtue, self control, the value of education, honest work, and the purpose and privilege of life. Nothing can take the place of home in rearing and teaching children, and no other success can compensate for failure in the home.”

“The poorest shack in which love prevails over a united family is of greater value to God and future humanity than any other riches. In such a home God can work miracles and will work miracles.”

“The greatest work we will ever do will be within the walls of our home.”

“There should be no yelling in the home unless there is a fire.”

Boyd K. Packer

“I don’t think it’s called for members of the Church to live in fear, to see all that’s going on around us and say, “How can we ever raise a family when all of this temptation and difficulty is about us?”

“Well, you can, because you can be guided and you can teach your children to be guided. In all of that you can live a happy life and find in the consummation of all of this, in the next existence, that the family can be together....

“So I extend my blessings to all of you across the Church as you enjoy family life, either as parents or as children or in any pattern that is your pattern, that you’ll be blessed and watched over, that the power of the Holy Ghost will be present in your life and the guarding power of the priesthood ever present will be there to correct you, to bless you, to boost you, and to confirm in you a testimony.” (Worldwide Leadership Training Broadcast, 9 Feb. 2008)

Claudio R. M. Costa

“The family proclamation helps us understand much of the love the Savior referred to when He told us we must ‘love one another.’ He gave us the supreme example of love when He declared, ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.’ He later atoned for all our sins and finally gave His life for all of us.

“We can lay down our lives for those we love not by physically dying for them but rather by living for them—giving of our time; always being present in their lives; serving them; being courteous, affectionate, and showing true love for those of our family and to all men—as the Savior taught.” (CR, Oct. 2007)

Spencer W. Kimball

“The stripling sons of the former... Lamanites were superior because ‘they had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them.’ (Alma 56:47.) This teaching is not a single sermon but a lifetime of example and precept. Here were mothers who loved their sons more than themselves, more than clothes, or entertainment, or social life, or business life, or luxuries. Here were women who gave themselves to their families—time, energy, effort, mind, and soul. Then came the dividends: a whole community of righteous, noble sons to sire generations of people so full of goodness and faith that it was to carry over through centuries.” (Relief Society Magazine, Jan. 1958, pg. 7)

Next Week:

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Christmas

