

The Family-Centered Gospel of Jesus Christ

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Jesu Kristi familiecentrerede evangelium

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Our doctrine and our belief in eternal families strengthen and bond us.

My loving brothers and sisters, thank you for your prayers on my behalf. I have felt them.

I.

The doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints centers on the family. Essential to our doctrine on the family is the temple. The ordinances received there enable us to return as eternal families to the presence of our Heavenly Father.

As of the April 2025 general conference, President Russell M. Nelson had announced the construction of 200 new temples. He loved to announce new temples at the conclusion of each general conference, and we all rejoiced with him. However, with the large number of temples now in the very earliest phases of planning and construction, it is appropriate that we slow down the announcement of new temples. Therefore, with the approval of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, we will not announce any new temples at this conference. We will now move forward in providing the ordinances of the temple to members of the Church throughout the world, including when and where to announce the construction of new temples.

The portion of my talk that I have just delivered was written after the death of our beloved President Russell M. Nelson. What now follows was written and approved weeks before, but it still represents my teachings, inspired by the Lord.

II.

Vores lære og vores tro på evige familier styrker og knytter os sammen.

Mine kærlige brødre og søstre, jeg takker jer for jeres bønner for mig. Jeg har følt dem.

I.

Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Helliges lære er centreret om familien. Templet er altafgørende i vores læresætning om familien. De ordinancer, der modtages der, gør os i stand til at vende tilbage til vor himmelske Faders nærhed som evige familier.

Ved aprilkonferencen 2025 havde præsident Russell M. Nelson bekendtgjort opførelsen af 200 nye templer. Han elskede at bekendtgøre nye templer ved afslutningen af hver general-konference, og vi frydede os alle med ham. Med det store antal templer, der lige nu er i de helt tidlige stadier af planlægning og konstruktion, er det passende, at vi nedsætter tempoet på bekendtgørelsen af nye templer. Derfor vil vi, med godkendelse fra De Tolv Apostles Kvorum, ikke bekendtgøre nye templer ved denne konference. Vi vil nu gå videre med at sørge for templets ordinancer til medlemmer af Kirken rundt om i verden, deriblandt når og hvor der vil blive bekendtgjort nye templer.

Den del af min tale, jeg lige har holdt, blev skrevet efter vores elskede præsident Russell M. Nelson gik bort. Det, der nu følger, blev skrevet og godkendt uger forinden, men det afspejler stadig mine lærdomme, som inspireret af Herren.

II.

The family proclamation, announced 30 years ago, declares that “the family is ordained of God” and “is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children.” It also declares “that God’s commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force.” And “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.” As then-Elder Russell M. Nelson taught a Brigham Young University audience, the family is “pivotal to God’s plan. ... In fact, a purpose of the plan is to exalt the family.”

The Church of Jesus Christ is sometimes known as a family-centered church. It is! Our relationship to God and the purpose of our mortal life are explained in terms of the family. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the plan of our Heavenly Father for the benefit of His spirit children. We can truly say that the gospel plan was first taught to us in the council of an eternal family, it is implemented through our mortal families, and its intended destiny is to exalt the children of God in eternal families.

III.

Despite that doctrinal context, there is opposition. In the United States we are suffering from a deterioration in marriage and childbearing. For nearly a hundred years the proportion of households headed by married couples has declined, and so has the birthrate. The marriages and birthrates of our Church members are much more positive, but they have also declined significantly. It is vital that Latter-day Saints do not lose their understanding of the purpose of marriage and the value of children. That is the future for which we strive. “Exaltation is a family affair,” President Nelson has taught us. “Only through the saving ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ can families be exalted.”

The national declines in marriage and childbearing are understandable for historic reasons, but Latter-day Saint values and practices should improve—not follow—those trends.

In my boyhood 80 years ago, I lived on my grandparents’ farm in a setting where almost all that happened during the day was under the direction of the family. There was no television or other electronics to distract from family activities. In contrast, in today’s urban society, few

Familieproklamationen, der blev bekendtgjort for 30 år siden, lyder, at »familien er indstiftet af Gud« og »er af afgørende betydning i Skaaberens plan for sine børns evige skæbne«. I den erklæres det også, »at Guds befaling til sine børn om at mangfoldiggøre sig og opfylde jorden stadig er gældende«. Og: »Vi erklærer endvidere, at Gud har befalet, at formeringens hellige kraft kun må anvendes mellem en mand og en kvinde, der er lovformeligt viet som ægteemand og hustru.« Den daværende ældste Russell M. Nelson sagde til en forsamling på Brigham Young Universitet, at familien er »afgørende i Guds plan ... Faktisk er et af planens formål at ophøje familien.«

Jesu Kristi Kirke omtales nogle gange som en familiecentreret kirke. Det er den også! Vores forhold til Gud og formålet med vores jordiske liv forklares med udgangspunkt i familien. Jesu Kristi evangelium er vor himmelske Faders plan til gavn for hans åndelige børn. Vi kan med rette sige, at evangeliets plan først blev forelagt os i et råd af en evig familie, at den gennemføres gennem vores jordiske familier, og at dens tilsigtede mål er at ophøje Guds børn i evige familier.

III.

På trods af den doktrinære kontekst er der modstand. I USA lider vi under en svækkelse af ægteskabet og fødselstallet. I næsten hundrede år er andelen af husstande med gifte par faldet, og det samme er fødselstallet. Antallet af ægteskaber og fødsler for vores kirkemedlemmer er langt mere positive, men de er også faldet betydeligt. Det er afgørende, at sidste dages hellige ikke mister deres forståelse for formålet med ægteskabet og værdien af børn. Det er den fremtid, vi stræber efter. »Ophøjelse er et familieanliggende,« har præsident Nelson lært os. »Kun gennem Jesu Kristi evangeliums frelsende ordinancer kan familier blive ophøjet.«

Det nationale fald i antallet af ægteskaber og fødsler kan forstås af historiske årsager, men sidste dages helliges værdier og skikke bør forbedre – ikke følge – disse tendenser.

For 80 år siden boede jeg som dreng på mine bedsteforældres gård i omgivelser, hvor næsten alt, hvad der skete i løbet af dagen, skete under familiens ledelse. Der var intet fjernsyn eller anden elektronik til at distrahere fra familiens aktiviteter. I modsætning hertil oplever kun få

members experience consistent family-centered activities. Urban living and modern transportation, organized entertainment, and high-speed communication have made it easy for youth to treat their homes as boardinghouses, where they sleep and take an occasional meal but where there is far less parental direction of their activities.

Parental influences have also been diluted by the way in which most current members of the Church earn a living. In times past, one of the great influences that unified families was the experience of struggling together in pursuit of a common goal—such as taming the wilderness or earning a living. The family was an organized and conducted unit of economic production. Today, most families are units of economic consumption, which do not require a high degree of family organization and cooperation.

IV.

As parental influences diminish, Latter-day Saints still have a God-given responsibility to teach their children to prepare for our family destiny in eternity (see Doctrine and Covenants 68:25). Many of us must do this when not all of our families are traditional. Divorce, death, and separation are realities. I experienced that in the family in which I was raised.

My father died when I was seven years old, so my younger brother and sister and I were raised by a widowed mother. In the most difficult of situations, she pressed on. She was alone and broken, but with the Lord's help, her powerful teaching of the doctrine of the restored Church guided us. How she prayed for heavenly assistance in raising her children, and she was blessed! We were raised in a happy home in which our deceased father was always a reality. She taught us that we had a father and she had a husband and we would always be a family because of their temple marriage. Our father was just away temporarily because the Lord had called him to a different work.

I know that many other families are not so happy, but every single mother can teach of the love of a Heavenly Father and the eventual blessings of a temple marriage. You too can do this! Heavenly Father's plan assures this possibility for everyone. We are all grateful for temple marriage and for the prospective blessings of being sealed

medlemmer i dagens bysamfund vedvarende familiecentrerede aktiviteter. Byliv og moderne transport, organiseret underholdning og højhastighedskommunikation har gjort det let for unge at behandle deres hjem som pensionater, hvor de sover og lejlighedsvis spiser, men hvor der er langt mindre forældreledelse af deres aktiviteter.

Forældres indflydelse er også blevet udvidet af den måde, hvorpå de fleste nuværende medlemmer af Kirken tjener til livets ophold. Før i tiden var en af de faktorer, der havde stor indflydelse på at forene familier, oplevelsen af at kæmpe sammen i jagten på et fælles mål – såsom at tæmme vildmarken eller tjene til livets ophold. Familien var en organiseret og ledet enhed for økonomisk produktion. I dag er de fleste familier enheder med økonomisk forbrug, hvilket ikke kræver en høj grad af familieorganisation og samarbejde.

IV.

Selvom forældres indflydelse mindskes, har sidste dages hellige stadig et gudgivet ansvar for at lære deres børn at forberede sig på vores families skæbne i evigheden (se L&P 68:25). Mange af os er nødt til at gøre dette, når ikke alle vores familier er traditionelle. Skilsmisse, død og separation er realiteter. Det oplevede jeg i den familie, jeg voksede op i.

Min far døde, da jeg var syv år gammel, så min yngre bror og søster og jeg blev opdraget af en mor, der var enke. I en af de sværeste situationer fortsatte hun ufortrødent. Hun var alene og knust, men med Herrens hjælp vejledte hendes stærke undervisning i den genoprettede kirkes lære os. Hun bad om himmelsk hjælp til at opdrage sine børn, og hun blev velsignet! Vi voksede op i et lykkeligt hjem, hvor vores afdøde far altid var nærværende. Hun lærte os, at vi havde en far, og hun havde en mand, og at vi altid ville være en familie på grund af deres tempelægteskab. Vores far var kun midlertidigt væk, fordi Herren havde kaldet ham til et andet værk.

Jeg ved, at mange andre familier ikke er så lykkelige, men enhver enlig mor kan undervise om vor himmelske Faders kærlighed og de lovede velsignelser ved et tempelægteskab. Det kan I også! Vor himmelske Faders plan sikrer alle denne mulighed. Vi er alle taknemmelige for tempelægteskabet og for de fremtidige velsig-

as an eternal family. Like my mother, we love to quote Lehi's promise to his son Jacob that God "shall consecrate thine afflictions for thy gain" (2 Nephi 2:2). That applies to every Latter-day Saint family, complete or currently incomplete. We are a family church.

Our doctrine and our belief in eternal families strengthen and bond us. I will never forget the promise of my maternal Grandfather Harris, when we children were living on his farm near Payson, Utah. He gave me the tragic news that my father had died in faraway Denver, Colorado. I ran into the bedroom and knelt beside the bed, crying my heart out. Grandpa followed me and went to his knees beside me and said, "I will be your father." That tender promise is a powerful example of what grandparents can do to fill in the gaps when families lose or are missing a member.

Parents, single or married—and others, like grandparents, who fill that role for children—are the master teachers. Their most effective teaching is by example. The family circle is the ideal place to demonstrate and learn eternal values, such as the importance of marriage and children, the purpose of life, and the true source of joy. It is also the best place to learn other essential lessons of life, such as kindness, forgiveness, self-control, and the value of education and honest work.

Of course, many Church members have beloved family members who do not embrace gospel values and expectations. Such members need our love and patience. In relating to one another, we should remember that the perfection we seek is not limited to the stressful circumstances of mortality. The great teaching in Doctrine and Covenants 138:57–59 assures us that repentance and spiritual growth can continue in the spirit world that follows mortality. More important, as families unite to strengthen one another, we should all remember that the sins and inevitable shortcomings all of us experience in mortality can be forgiven through repentance because of the glorious and saving Atonement of Jesus Christ.

V.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is our ultimate role model. We will be blessed if we model our lives after His teachings and self-sacrifice. Following

nelser ved at blive beseglet som en evig familie. Ligesom min mor elsker vi at citere Lehis løfte til sin søn Jakob om, at Gud »vil hellige dine trængsler til gavn for dig« (2 Ne 2:2). Det gælder for alle sidste dages hellige familier, uanset om de er komplette eller i øjeblikket ufuldstændige. Vi er en familiekirke.

Vores lære og vores tro på evige familier styrker os og knytter os sammen. Jeg vil aldrig glemme løftet fra min morfar Harris, da vi børn boede på hans gård nær Payson i Utah. Han overbragte mig den tragiske nyhed om, at min far var død i det fjerne Denver i Colorado. Jeg løb ind i soveværelset og knælede ved siden af sengen og græd fortvivlet. Morfar fulgte efter mig, knælede ned ved siden af mig og sagde: »Jeg vil være din far.« Dette kærlige løfte er et stærkt eksempel på, hvad bedsteforældre kan gøre for at udfylde tomrum, når familier mister eller mangler et medlem.

Forældre, både enlige eller gifte – og andre såsom bedsteforældre, der varetager denne rolle for børn – er de ypperste undervisere. Deres mest effektive undervisning sker ved at være et godt eksempel. Familie kredsen er det ideelle sted at demonstrere og lære evige værdier, såsom vigtigheden af ægteskab og børn, livets formål og den sande kilde til glæde. Det er også det bedste sted at lære andre vigtige lektier i livet, såsom venlighed, tilgivelse, selvkontrol og værdien af uddannelse og ærligt arbejde.

Selvfølgelig har mange kirkemedlemmer kære familiemedlemmer, der ikke favner evangeliets værdier og forventninger. Sådanne medlemmer har brug for vores kærlighed og tålmodighed. I vores omgang med hinanden bør vi huske, at den fuldkommenhed, vi søger, ikke er begrænset til jordelivets stressende omstændigheder. Lærdommen i Lære og Pagter 138:57-59 forsikrer os om, at omvendelse og åndelig udvikling kan fortsætte i ånde verdenen efter jordelivet. Endnu vigtigere er det, at når familier forenes for at styrke hinanden, må vi alle huske, at de synder og uundgåelige mangler, vi alle oplever i jordelivet, kan tilgives gennem omvendelse, takket være Jesu Kristi herlige og frelsende forsoning.

V.

Vor Frelser, Jesus Kristus, er vores ultimative forbillede. Vi vil blive velsignet, hvis vi former vores liv efter hans lærdomme og selvopofrelse.

Christ and giving ourselves in service to one another is the best remedy for the selfishness and individualism that now seem to be so common.

Parents also have a duty to teach their children practical knowledge apart from gospel principles. Families unite when they do meaningful things together. Family gardens build family relationships. Happy family experiences strengthen family ties. Camping, sports activities, and other recreation are especially valuable to bond families. Families should organize family reunions to remember ancestors, which lead to the temple.

Parents should educate children in the basic skills of living, including working in the yard and home. Learning languages is a useful preparation for missionary service and modern life. The teachers of these subjects can be parents or grandparents or members of the extended family. Families flourish when they learn as a group and counsel together on all matters of concern to the family and its members.

Some may say, "But we have no time for any of that." To find time to do what is truly worthwhile, many parents will find that they can turn their family on if they all turn their technology off. And parents, remember, what those children really want for dinner is time with you.

Great blessings come to families if they pray together, kneeling night and morning to offer thanks for blessings and to pray over common concerns. Families are also blessed as they worship together in Church services and in other devotional settings. Family bonds are also strengthened by family stories, creating family traditions, and sharing sacred experiences. President Spencer W. Kimball reminded us that "stories of inspiration from our own lives and those of our forebears ... are powerful teaching tools." They are often the best sources of inspiration for us and our posterity.

I testify of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Only Begotten Son of God, our Eternal Father. He invites us to follow the covenant path that leads to a heavenly family reunion. The sealing powers of the priesthood, directed by the keys restored in the Kirtland Temple, bring families together for eternity (see Doctrine and Covenants 110:13–16). They are currently being exercised in a growing number of temples of the Lord

At følge Kristus og give os selv i tjeneste for hinanden er det bedste middel mod den egoisme og individualisme, der nu synes at være så udbredt.

Forældre har også en pligt til at lære deres børn praktisk viden ud over evangeliske principper. Familier bliver tættere knyttet, når de gør meningsfulde ting sammen. En familiehave opbygger familieforhold. Lykkelige familieoplevelser styrker familieband. Teltture, sportsaktiviteter og andre fritidsaktiviteter er særligt værdifulde for at styrke familiebandene. Familier bør organisere familiesammenkomster for at mindes forfædre, hvilket fører til templet.

Forældre bør lære deres børn de grundlæggende færdigheder i livet, herunder at arbejde i haven og i hjemmet. At lære sprog er en nyttig forberedelse til missionering og det moderne liv. Lærere i disse fag kan være forældre eller bedsteforældre eller medlemmer af den udvidede familie. Familier trives, når de lærer sammen som gruppe og rådfører sig med hinanden om alle spørgsmål, der vedrører familien og dens medlemmer.

Nogle vil måske sige: »Men vi har ikke tid til noget af det.« For at finde tid til at gøre det, der virkelig er værdifuldt, vil mange forældre opdage, at de kantænder for deres familie, hvis de alleslukker for deres teknologi. Og forældre, husk, hvad disse børn virkelig vil have til aftensmad, er tid sammen med jer.

Store velsignelser kommer til familier, hvis de beder sammen, knæler om aftenen og om morgenen for at takke for velsignelser og bede om fælles anliggender. Familier bliver også velsignet, når de tilbeder sammen ved Kirkens møder og i andre åndelige sammenhænge. Familieband styrkes også gennem familiehistorier, skabelse af familietraditioner og deling af hellige oplevelser. Præsident Spencer W. Kimball mindede os om, at »inspirerende historier fra vort eget såvel som fra vore forfædres liv er godt undervisningsmateriale«. De er ofte de bedste inspirationskilder for os og vores efterkommere.

Jeg vidner om Herren Jesus Kristus, som er Guds, vor evige Faders, enbårne Søn. Han opfordrer os til at følge den pagtssti, der fører til en himmelsk familiesammenkomst. Præstedømmets beseglingsmagt, der styres af de nøgler, der blev gengivet i templet i Kirtland, forener familier for evigt. (Se Lære og Pagter 110:13–16). De udøves i øjeblikket i et stigende antal af Herrens templer over hele verden. Dette er virkeligt. Lad os

throughout the world. This is real. Let us be part
of it, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

være en del af det. Det beder jeg om, i Jesu Kristi
navn. Amen.