

The Family-Centered Gospel of Jesus Christ

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Familia-Kitovu cha Injili ya Yesu Kristo

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Rais wa Akidi ya Mitume Kumi na Wawili

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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.

Mafundisho yetu na imani yetu katika familia za milele vinatuimarisha na kutuunganisha.

Wapendwa kaka na dada zangu, asanteni kwa sala zenu kwa niaba yangu. Nimezihisi.

I.

Mafundisho ya Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho hujikita kwenye familia. Cha muhimu kwenye fundisho letu kuhusu familia ni Hekalu. Ibada zinazopokelewa humo hutuwezesha kurudi kama familia za milele kwenye uwepo wa Baba yetu wa Mbinguni.

Mpaka mkutano mkuu wa April 2025, Rais Russell M. Nelson alikuwa amekwishatangaza ujenzi wa mahekalu mapya 200. Alipenda kutangaza mahekalu mapya kwenye hitimisho la kila mkutano mkuu, nasi tulifurahia pamoja naye. hata hivyo, kwa idadi kubwa ya mahekalu ambayo kwa sasa yapo kwenye hatua za awali sana za upangaji na ujenzi, ni vyema kwamba tupunguze utangazwaji wa mahekalu mapya. Hivyo, kwa idhini toka Akidi ya Mitume Kumi na Wawili, hatutatangaza hekalu lolote jipya kwenye mkutano huu. Tutaendelea na utoaji wa ibada za hekaluni kwa waumini wa Kanisa kote ulimwenguni, ikijumuisha lini na wapi pa kutangaza ujenzi wa mahekalu mapya.

Sehemu ya ujumbe wangu ambao nimetoka kuutoa iliandikwa baada ya kifo cha Rais wetu mpendwa Russell M. Nelson. Sehemu ambayo sasa inafuatia iliandikwa na kuidhinishwa wiki kadhaa kabla, lakini bado inawakilisha mafundisho yangu, niliyopokea toka kwa Bwana.

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.

II.

Tangazo la familia, lililotangazwa miaka 30 kamili iliyopita, linatamka kwamba “familia imeamriwa na Mungu” na “ni kitovu cha mpan-go wa Muumbaji kwa ajili ya hatima ya milele ya watoto Wake.” Pia linatamka “kwamba amri ya Mungu kwa watoto Wake ya kuongezeka na kuijaza dunia bado ina nguvu.” Na, “Tunatamka tena kwamba Mungu ameamuru kwamba nguvu takatifu za uumbaji zinapaswa kutumiwa tu kati ya mwanaume na mwanamke, waliooana kishe-ria kama mume na mke.” Kama-Mzee wakati huo Russell M. Nelson alivyo wafundisha hadhira ya BYU, kwamba familia ni “ya muhimu sana katika mpango wa Mungu. ... Ukweli ni kwamba, dhu-muni la mpango huu ni kuinuliwa kwa familia.”

Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho linajulikana vyema kama Kanisa ambalo kitovu chake ni familia. Ndiyo! Uhusia-no wetu na Mungu na dhumuni la maisha yetu ya duniani vinafafanuliwa katika muktadha wa familia. Injili ya Yesu Kristo ni mpango wa Baba yetu wa Mbinguni kwa manufaa ya watoto Wake wa kiroho. Kwa ukweli tunaweza kusema kwam-ba mpango wa injili kwanza ulifundishwa kwetu katika baraza la familia ya milele, unatekelezwa kupitia familia zetu za duniani, na hatima inayo kusudiwa ni kuwainua watoto wa Mungu katika familia za milele.

III.

Licha ya muktadha huu wa kimafundisho, kuna upinzani. Nchini Marekani tunateseka kwa kupungua kwa thamani ya ndoa na uzaaji wa watoto. Kwa takriban miaka mia moja wastani wa kaya zinazoongozwa na wanandoa umeshuka, na vile vile kiwango cha watoto kuzaliwa. Ndoa na kiwango cha watoto kuzaliwa cha waumi wa Kanisa letu ni chanya zaidi, lakini pia vimepun-gua sana. Ni muhimu kwamba Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho wasipoteze uelewa wao juu ya dhumuni la ndoa na thamani ya watoto. Hiyo ndiyo kesho tunayoitafula. “Kuinuliwa ni suala la kifamilia,” Rais Nelson ametufundisha. “Ni kupi-tia tu ibada okozi za injili ya Yesu Kristo familia zinaweza kuinuliwa.”

Kushuka kwa takwimu hizi za kitaifa za ndoa na uzaliwaji wa watoto zinaeleweka kwa sababu za kihistoria, lakini maadili na desturi ya Mtakat-ifu wa Siku za Mwisho vinapaswa kuwa bora zaidi—siyo kufuata—mitindo hiyo.

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 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

Katika uvulana wangu miaka 80 iliyopita, ni liishi katika shamba la babu na bibi yangu katika mazingira ambayo karibia yote yaliyofanyika katika siku yalikuwa chini ya maelekezo ya familia. Hapakuwa na televisheni au vifaa vya kielektroniki kuondoa umakini wetu kwenye shughuli za familia. Kinyume chake, katika jumuiya za kisasa za mjini, waumini wachache wanapata uzoefu endelevu wa shughuli zinazojikita kwenye familia. Maisha ya mjini na usafiri wa kisasa, burudani zilizopangiliwa, na mawasiliano ya kasi vimefanya iwe rahisi kwa vijana kuzifanya nyumba zao kama mabweni, mahali ambapo wanalala na kula mara chache na mahali ambapo hakuna uelekezi wa wazazi kuhusu shughuli zao.

Ushawishi wa wazazi pia umepunguzwa kwa kupitia njia ambazo waumini wengi wa sasa wa Kanisa wanatimiza mahitaji yao. Katika nyakati zilizopita, moja ya ushawishi mkubwa ulioziunganisha familia ni uzoefu wa kushughulika pamoja katika kutimiza lengo la pamoja—kama vile kuandaa mashamba au kujikimu kimaisha. Familia ilikuwa kikundi kilichoundwa na kuendeshwacha kuzalisha uchumi. Leo, familia nyingini vikundi vya ufujaji wa uchumi, ambapo hakuitajiki shahada ya juu ya muundo wa familia au ushirikiano.

IV.

Kadiri ushawishi wa familia unavyopungua, Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho bado wana jukumu kutoka kwa Mungu la kuwafundisha watoto wao kujiandaa kwa ajili ya hatima ya familia yetu katika umilele (ona Mafundisho na Maagano 68:25). Wengi wetu lazima tufanye hili wakati si familia zetu wote ni za kitamaduni. Talaka, kifo, na utangano ni uhalisia. Nilipitia hilo katika familia ambayo nililelewa.

Baba yangu alifariki wakati nikiwa na umri wa miaka saba, hivyo mimi, kaka yangu mdogo na dada yangu tulilelewa na mama mjane. Katika hali ngumu sana, yeye aliendelea kusonga mbele. Alikuwa pekee yake, na aliye vunjika, lakini ufundishaji wake wenye nguvu wa mafundisho ya Kanisa lililorejeshwa ulituongoza. Jinsi gani alisali kwa ajili ya msaada wa kimbangu katika kuwalea watoto wake, na alibarikiwa! Tulilelewa katika nyumba yenye furaha ambamo marehemu baba yetu daima alikuwa uhalisia. Mama alitufundisha kuwa tulikuwa na baba na yeye alikuwa na mume na daima tutakuwa familia kwa sababu ya ndoa yao ya hekaluni. Baba yetu hakuwepo

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 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

kwa muda tu kwa sababu Bwana alikuwa amemuita kwenye kazi tofauti.

Najua kwamba familia nyingine nyingi hazina furaha hii, lakini kila mama asiye na mume anaweza kufundisha juu ya upendo wa Baba wa Mbinguni na baraka za matokeo ya ndoa ya hekaluni. Wewe pia unaweza kufanya hili! Mpan-go wa Baba wa Mbinguni unahakikisha uwezekano huu kwa kila mtu. Sisi sote tunayo shukrani kwa ajili ya ndoa ya hekaluni na kwa baraka tarajiwa za kuunganishwa kama familia ya milele. Kama mama yangu, tunapenda kunukuu ahadi za Lehi kwa mwanawe Yakobo kwamba Mungu "ataweka wakfu mateso yako kwa faida yako" (2 Nepi 2:2). Hilo linatumika kwa kila familia ya Mtakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho, iliyo kamili au isiyo kamili kwa sasa. Sisi ni kanisa la kifamilia

Mafundisho yetu na imani yetu katika familia za milele vinatuimarisha na kutuunganisha. Katu sitosahau ahadi ya babu yangu mzaa mama, wakati sisi watoto tulipokuwa tukiishi kwenye shamba lake jirani na Payson, Utah. Alinipa habari mbaya kwamba baba yangu alikuwa amefariki mbali huko Denver, Colorado. Nilikimbilia ndani kwenye chumba cha kulala na kupiga magoti pembeni ya kitanda, nikilia kwa uchungu wa moyo. Babu alinifuata na akapiga magoti pembeni yangu na kusema, "Nitakuwa baba yako." Ahadi hiyo nyororo ni mfano wenye nguvu wa kile babu na bibi wanachoweza kufanya ili kujaza pengo wakati familia zinapo poteza au wanapomkosa mwanafamilia.

Wazazi—mmoja au waliooana na wengine kama babu na bibi wanaojaza pengo hilo kwa watoto—ndio walimu wakuu. Ufundishaji wao wenye ufanisi zaidi ni kupitia mfano. Mduara wa familia ni mahali sahihi pa kuonyesha na kujifunza maadili ya milele kama vile umuhimu wa ndoa na watoto, dhumuni la maisha, na chanzo cha kweli cha shangwe. Pia ni mahali bora zaidi pa kujifunza masomo mengine muhimu ya maisha, kama vile ukarimu, msamaha, udhibiti binafsi, na thamani ya elimu na kazi ya uaminifu.

Hata hivyo, waumini wengi wa Kanisa wanao wapendwa wanafamilia ambao hawakumbatii maadili na matarajio ya injili. Waumini hao wanahitaji upendo na uvumilivu wetu. Katika kuhusiana kwetu sisi kwa sisi, tunapaswa kukumbuka kwamba ukamilifu tunao utafuta hauishii tu kwenye hali za duniani zenye msongo wa mawazo. Fundisho kuu katika Mafundisho na Maa-gano 138:57–59 linatuhakikishia kwamba toba

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 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

na ukuaji wa kiroho vinaweza kuendelea katika ulimwengu wa kiroho ambao unafuatia maisha ya duniani. Muhimu zaidi, familia zinapo ungana ili kuimarishana, wote tunapaswa kukumbuka kwamba dhambi na mapungufu yasiyotabirika sisi sote tunayopitia duniani vinaweza kusamehewa kupitia toba kwa sababu ya Upatanisho mtukufu na wenye kuokoa wa Yesu Kristo.

V.

Mwokozi wetu Yesu Kristo ndiye mfano wetu wa mwisho. Tutabarikiwa kama tutafanya maisha yetu kwa mfano wa mafundisho Yake na dhambi-hu-binafsi. Kumfuata Kristo na kujitua wenyewe katika huduma ya sisi kwa sisi ni tiba bora kwa ajili ya uchoyo na ubinafsi ambavyo sasa vinaonekana kuwa vya kawaida.

Wazazi pia wanao wajibu wa kufundisha watoto wao elimu kwa vitendo licha ya kanuni za injili. Familia zinaungana wanapo fanya mambo yenye kuleta tija kwa pamoja. Bustani za familia zinajenga uhusiano wa familia. Matukio ya furaha ya kifamilia yanaimarisha mshikamano wa familia. Kupiga kambi nje ya nyumba, shughuli za michezo, na burudani nyingine ni vya thamani sana kwa kuziunganisha familia. Familia zinapaswa kubuni mikusanyiko ya kifamilia ili kuwakumbuka mababu, mikusanyiko ambayo inatuongoza hekaluni.

Wazazi wanapaswa kuwaelimisha watoto katika ujuzi wa msingi wa maisha, ikijumuisha kufanya kazi zinazohusiana na ardhi na nyumbani. Kujifunza lugha ni maandalizi muhimu kwa ajili ya huduma ya umisionari na maisha ya kisasa. Walimu wa masomo haya wanaweza kuwa wazazi au babu na bibi au wanafamilia wengine. Familia zinachanua wanapojifunza kama kikundi na kushauriana pamoja juu ya masuala yote yahasuyo familia na wanafamilia.

Baadhi wanaweza kusema, “Lakini hatuna muda wa lolote kati ya haya.” Ili kupata muda wa kufanya kile kilicho cha muhimu, wazazi wengi wataona kwamba wanaweza kuifanya familia yao kuwahaikama wote watazimateknolojiazao. Na wazazi, kumbukeni, kile watoto hao wanachotaka hasa wakati wa chakula cha jioni ni muda wa kuwa nanyi.

Baraka kuu huja kwenye familia kama wanasali pamoja, wakipiga magoti usiku na asubuhi ili kutoa shukrani kwa ajili ya baraka na kusali kuhusu mashaka yao ya pamoja. Familia pia zinabarikiwa wanapo abudu pamoja katika ibada

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

za kanisa na pia katika mazingira ya ibada fupi. Mapatano ya kifamilia pia yanaimarishwa kwa hadithi za familia, kubuni desturi za familia, na kushirikishana matukio matakatifu. Rais Spencer W. Kimball alitukumbusha kwamba “hadithi zenye mwongozo wa kiungu kutoka katika maisha yetu wenyewe na zile za watangulizi wetu ... ni zana za kufundishia zenye nguvu.” Mara nyingi ni vyanzo bora vya mwongozo wa kiungu kwa ajili yetu na wazao wetu.

Ninashuhudia juu ya Bwana Yesu Kristo ambaye ni Mwana wa Pekee wa Mungu Baba yetu wa Milele. Yeye anatalika tufuate njia ya agano ambayo inaongoza kwenye kukusanyika tena kwa familia yote ya mbinguni. Nguvu za kuunganisha za ukuhani, zikielekezwa na funguo zilizorejeshwa katika Hekalu la Kirtland, huzileta familia pamoja milele (see Mafundisho na Maa-gano 110:13–16). Kwa sasa zinatumika katika idadi inayokua ya mahekalu ya Bwana kote ulimwenguni. Hii ni kweli. Acha tuwe sehemu ya hili, nina sali, katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.