

How does raising a righteous family help us fulfill the covenants and ordinances of the temple, and prepare us for exaltation?

It is interesting to note the differences between the Lord's laws, ordinances and covenants as opposed to those of mankind.

We realize, for example, that the 'law' of the gospel, obligates us to be 'charitable, benevolent, tolerant and pure'. Many of us have also made covenants to be chaste and virtuous and to live the laws of sacrifice and consecration. All of these are given to us in short, easy to understand language.

Unlike congress, that writes thousands of pages of legal documents to detail, and often confuse, the laws that govern us; the Lord 'teaches us correct principles' so that we can govern ourselves: "Thou shalt not commit adultery", and "Keep the Sabbath day holy" are not spelled out in great detail; but they provide the principles and guidelines, and the Holy Ghost can teach us the rest.

If you enjoy simplicity, consider the first two commandments given to human kind. Adam and Eve were given two commandments that were very brief; but those 24 words continue to have a powerful effect upon mankind:

"Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it"; and

"Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."

By choosing to eat of the fruit, Adam and Eve became mortal.

And once they were mortal they were given the opportunity to fulfill the second commandment—to have children and populate the earth.

Raising children is not an easy task. Many days are difficult.

A young mother got on a bus with seven children. The bus driver asked, "Are these all yours, lady? Or is it a picnic?" "They're all mine," she replied. "And it's no picnic!"

And it is true. Being a good parent is not a picnic. The home has been likened to a workshop in which we learn how to become celestial. Every law, covenant and ordinance of the gospel can be honed and sharpened as we interact with members of our family. Do we desire to be more patient? A two year old can help you with that. Do you desire to be long-suffering? Your teenage children can help you with that. It is in the family that we practice how to be kind and good, unselfish, and generous. It is where we learn self-discipline through paying tithing and offerings, and through giving-up pleasures that are dear to us for the greater good; it is where we learn to honor women and treat them as the queens that they are; It is where we learn to control our anger, our lasciviousness and our greed. It is where we learn to be 'charitable, benevolent, tolerant and pure'; No one who enjoys being a loving righteous parent will have difficulty keeping temple covenants for very long.

An inspired mother of 5 (not LDS) wrote this inspiring blog:

“[Growing] up in this culture, it is very hard to get a biblical perspective on motherhood. ... Children rank way below college. Below world travel for sure. Below the ability to go out at night at your leisure. Below honing your body at the gym. Below any job you may have or hope to get.” She then adds: “Motherhood is not a hobby, it is a calling. You do not collect children because you find them cuter than stamps. It is not something to do if you can squeeze the time in. *It is what God gave you time for.*”

But what of Church members who choose not to have children?

That question brings up an interesting dilemma:

The Lord said, “This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”

But there are certain things that are required before the Lord can “bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man”, are there not?

- Man must exist – which can only occur through Mortal parents, who, through the process of procreation, become co-creators with God.
- All of God’s spirit children, who will, must have the opportunity to gain a mortal body.
- Mortal men and women must learn correct principles and govern their lives according to principles of righteousness.

With these things in place, the ‘work and glory of God’ moves forward. Without them, the plan of salvation is thwarted; and there is no purpose for the creation of the earth.

Thus, it is essential that earthly parents obey the command to multiply and replenish the earth.

Elder Neil L. Anderson, of the 12, added this:

“What a wonderful blessing we have to reverently listen for the voice of His Holy Spirit, and receive sons and daughters of God into our homes. It is a crowning privilege of a husband and wife who are able to bear children to provide mortal bodies for these spirit children of God.” ... The family is ordained of God ... and we declare that God’s commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force.”

Does bearing children effect our possibilities for exaltation?

Men and women who meet celestial qualifications, and choose to marry and have Children, are promised a place in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, where,

through the process of procreation, they will continue as co-creators with God. While others—with the same opportunities, and equal righteousness—but who refuse to help God provide mortal bodies for His spirit children, place their exaltation in jeopardy.

Is it possible, do you think, that if parents refuse to bring a child into their home and raise them in righteousness, that the child may be forced into a home where drugs lasciviousness and corruption are rampant? It is something to think about.

When should a couple have a child and how many children should they have?

These are private decisions to be made between a husband and wife and the Lord. These are sacred decisions—made after sincere prayer, and perhaps even fasting.

.....

President Thomas S. Monson said: “If you are concerned about providing financially for a wife and family, may I assure you that there is no shame in a couple having to scrimp and save.” In the most beloved story of a baby’s birth, there was no decorated nursery or designer crib—only a manger for the Savior of the world.