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Talk Title: The Plan and the Proclamation

Speaker: Elder Dallin H. Oaks      Session: Saturday Morning      Date: 9/30/2017

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**Points to Ponder**

1. What is the Latter-day Saints unique doctrine regarding and different way of viewing the family?

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2. What can I learn and apply in my life from Elder Oak’s reminders, in section I, about being in the world but not of the world?

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3. How can I remain “vigilant in a world which have moved so far from that which is spiritual” as indicated by President Monson in the quote shared by Elder Oaks?

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4. Why is it, as President Russell M. Nelson indicated, as quoted by Elder Oaks, that “salvation is and individual matter; [but] exaltation is a family matter?”

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5. Why are the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and the inspired family proclamation essential guides to help me grow and mature spiritually?

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6. How does my understanding of God’s plan of salvation give me a unique worldview that helps me see the reason for God’s commandments, as well as the unchangeable nature of His required ordinances, and the fundamental role of Jesus Christ?

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7. When my desire and efforts to follow Jesus Christ cause misunderstanding or conflict with my family or friends, what can I do to still show love for them but also remain firm in my commitment to choose the Lord’s way instead of the world’s way?

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8. What makes the family proclamation more than just a policy statement?

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9. How can the gospel truths contained in the family proclamation sustain me and my family through the current challenges to the family?

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10. Why is it vital for me to know and understand that “marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God”<sup>1</sup> and that the family is central to the Creator’s plan for our eternal destiny?

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11. Why is an understanding that “gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose”<sup>2</sup> important?

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12. How does the knowledge that God has commanded that the “sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between a man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife,”<sup>3</sup> bless my life?

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13. Am I doing the things I need to do to show proper love and care for my family and my children, or children with whom I may have contact if I don’t have any of my own?

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14. How does the knowledge that “happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ,”<sup>4</sup> affect my efforts to teach Christ’s gospel in my family?

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15. How will teaching and living by the family proclamation bless me and my family as I press toward eternal life?

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16. What will I do to ensure that I meet the test of our generation by having the proper attitude toward, and making proper use of, the family proclamation?

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### **Scriptures Referenced**

[Matthew 13:22](#)

[Matthew 16:23,26](#)

[John 15:19](#)

[John 17:14,16](#)

[Romans 12:2](#)

[1 Corinthians 3:19](#)

[Colossians 2:8](#)

[James 4:4](#)

[1 Nephi 22:23](#)

[2 Nephi 9:30](#)

[Alma 31:27](#)

[1 Nephi 8:26-27, 33](#)

[1 Nephi 11:34-36](#)

[D&C 53:2](#)

[Isaiah 51:7](#)

[2 Nephi 8:7](#)

[D&C 98:12](#)

[D&C 131:1-4](#)

### **Other Talks Referenced**

1. Thomas S. Monson, "[Stand in Holy Places](#)," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 83.
2. Russell M. Nelson, "[Salvation and Exaltation](#)," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2008, 10.
3. "[The Family: A Proclamation to the World](#)," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 129.
4. Dallin H. Oaks, "[Love and Law](#)," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 26–29.
5. Bonnie L. Oscarson, "[Defenders of the Family Proclamation](#)," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2015, 14–15
6. Gordon B. Hinckley, "[Stand Strong against the Wiles of the World](#)," *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 100.
7. Ezra Taft Benson, "Our Obligation and Challenge" (address given at the regional representatives' seminar, Sept. 30, 1977), 2; in David A. Bednar, "[On the Lord's Side: Lessons from Zion's Camp](#)," *Ensign*, July 2017, 31; *Liahona*, July 2017, 19.
8. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Gordon B. Hinckley* (2016), 186; see also Gordon B. Hinckley, "[Look to the Future](#)," *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 69.

### **Related Talks**

1. Dallin H. Oaks, "[Opposition in All Things](#)" *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2016, 114-117
2. Stanley G. Ellis, "[Do We Trust Him? Hard Is Good](#)" *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2017, 112-114
3. Donald L. Hallstrom, "[Has the Day of Miracles Ceased?](#)" *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2017, 88-89

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<sup>1</sup> [The Family, A Proclamation to the World](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.