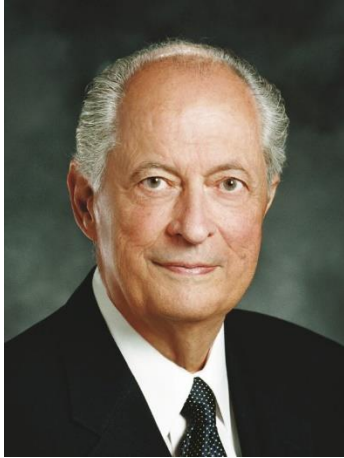


LESSON 114 – Marriage and Family (Part 1)



“May I point out something obvious? Life rarely goes exactly according to plan for anyone, and we are very aware that not all [individuals] are experiencing what the proclamation [on the family] describes. It is still important to understand and teach the Lord’s pattern and strive for the realization of that pattern the best we can. “We should remember that a loving Heavenly Father is aware of our righteous desires and will honor His promises ... [to] those who faithfully keep their covenants” (Bonnie L. Oscarson, “[Defenders of the Family Proclamation](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2015, 15).



“While our individual salvation is based on our individual obedience, it is equally important that we understand that we are each an important and integral part of a family and the highest blessings can be received only within an eternal family. When families are functioning as designed by God, the relationships found therein are the most valued of mortality. The plan of the Father is that family love and companionship will continue into the eternities. Being one in a family carries a great responsibility of caring, loving, lifting, and strengthening each member of the family so that all can righteously endure to the end in mortality and dwell together throughout eternity. It is not enough just to save ourselves. It is equally important that parents, brothers, and sisters are saved in our families” (Robert D. Hales, “[The Eternal Family](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 65).



“After the earth was created, Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden. Importantly, however, God said ‘it was not good that the man should be alone’ ([Moses 3:18](#); see also [Genesis 2:18](#)), and Eve became Adam’s wife and helpmeet. The unique combination of spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional capacities of both males and females was needed to enact the plan of happiness. ‘Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord’ ([1 Corinthians 11:11](#)). The man and the woman are intended to learn from, strengthen, bless, and complete each other. “... Marriage between a man and a woman is the authorized channel through which premortal spirits enter mortality” (David A. Bednar, “[We Believe in Being Chaste](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2013, 41–42).