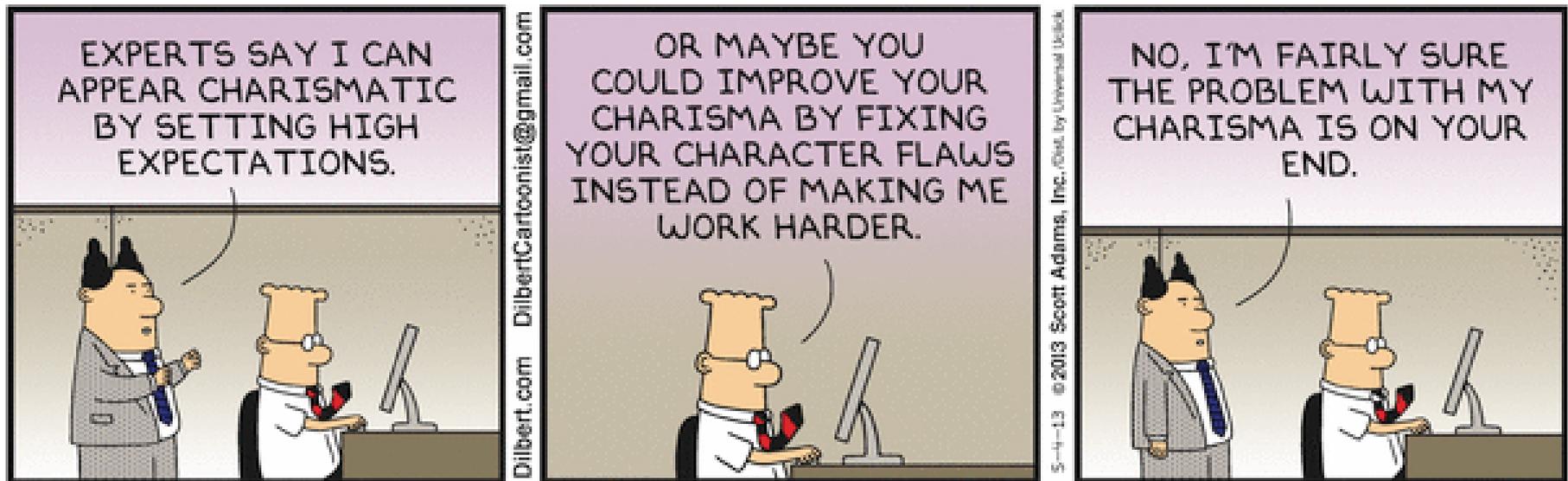




**THE FAMILY:  
A PROCLAMATION TO  
THE WORLD**

# Straight from my Office.....



# 10 Year Rule....



**Family Home Evening**

**Revelation on the**

**Priesthood (1978)**

**Family Proclamation**

**(1995)**

**2003?**

**The 60's and 70's**

**Growth in Africa(1989)**

**Same Sex Marriage**

**(2005- Present)**

**?**

# President Hinckley, Oct 2003

We of the First Presidency are constantly dealing with a great variety of problems. They come before us every day.

At the close of one particularly difficult day, I looked up at a portrait of Brigham Young that hangs on my wall. I asked, “Brother Brigham, what should we do?” I thought I saw him smile a little, and then he seemed to say: “In my day, I had problems enough of my own. Don’t ask me what to do. This is your watch. Ask the Lord, whose work this really is.” And this, I assure you, is what we do and must always do.

I believe and testify that it is the mission of this Church to stand as an ensign to the nations and a light to the world. We have had placed upon us a great, all-encompassing mandate from which we cannot shrink nor turn aside. We accept that mandate and are determined to fulfill it, and with the help of God we shall do it.

There are forces all around us that would deter us from that effort. The world is constantly crowding in on us. From all sides we feel the pressure to soften our stance, to give in here a little and there a little.

We must never lose sight of our objective. We must ever keep before us the goal which the Lord has set for us.

# Family Proclamation



## THE FAMILY

*A Proclamation to the World*

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

**WE, THE FIRST PRESIDENCY** and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

**ALL HUMAN BEINGS**—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

**IN THE PREMORTAL REALM**, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Father and accepted His plan by which their children could obtain a physical body and gain a earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT** that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. 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.

**WE DECLARE** the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its beginning in God's eternal plan.

**HUSBAND AND WIFE** may, by a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children: "Children are in the image of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness

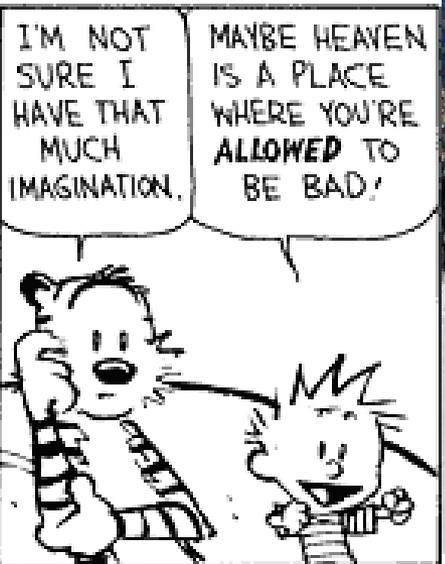
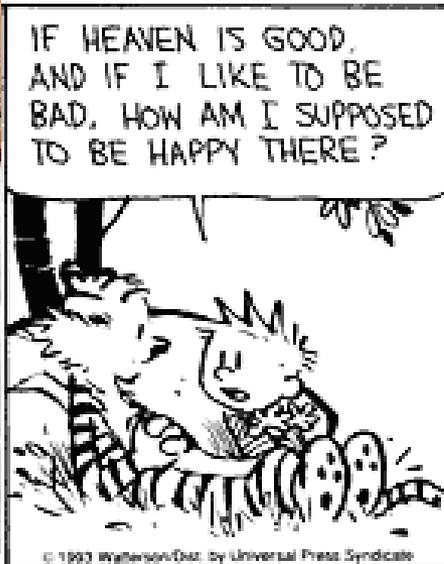
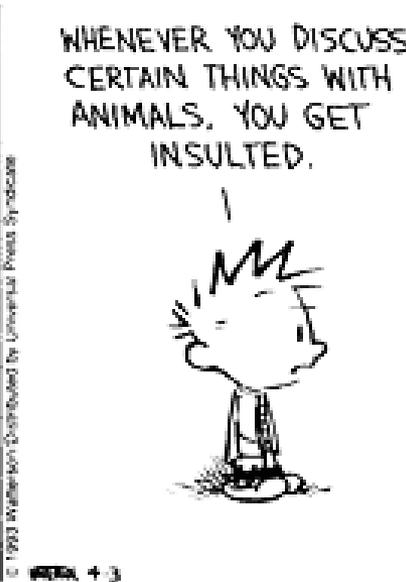
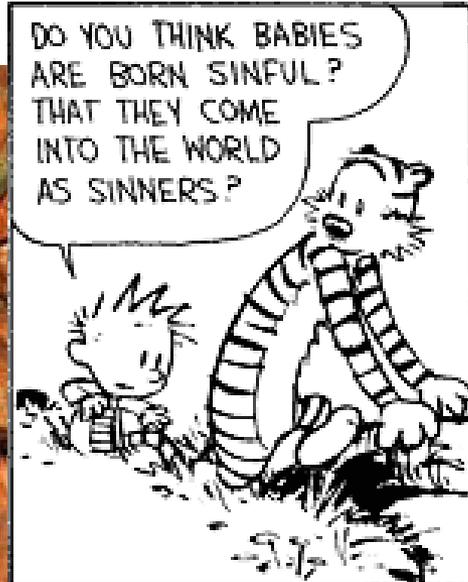
to provide for their physical and spiritual needs and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

**THE FAMILY** is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who bear witness to their parental authority in God's name and by their own authority, or marital vows, with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

**WE WARN** that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities, will one day stand accountable before God; further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

**WE CALL UPON** responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the General Relief Society Meeting held September 23, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah.



# President Uchtdorf

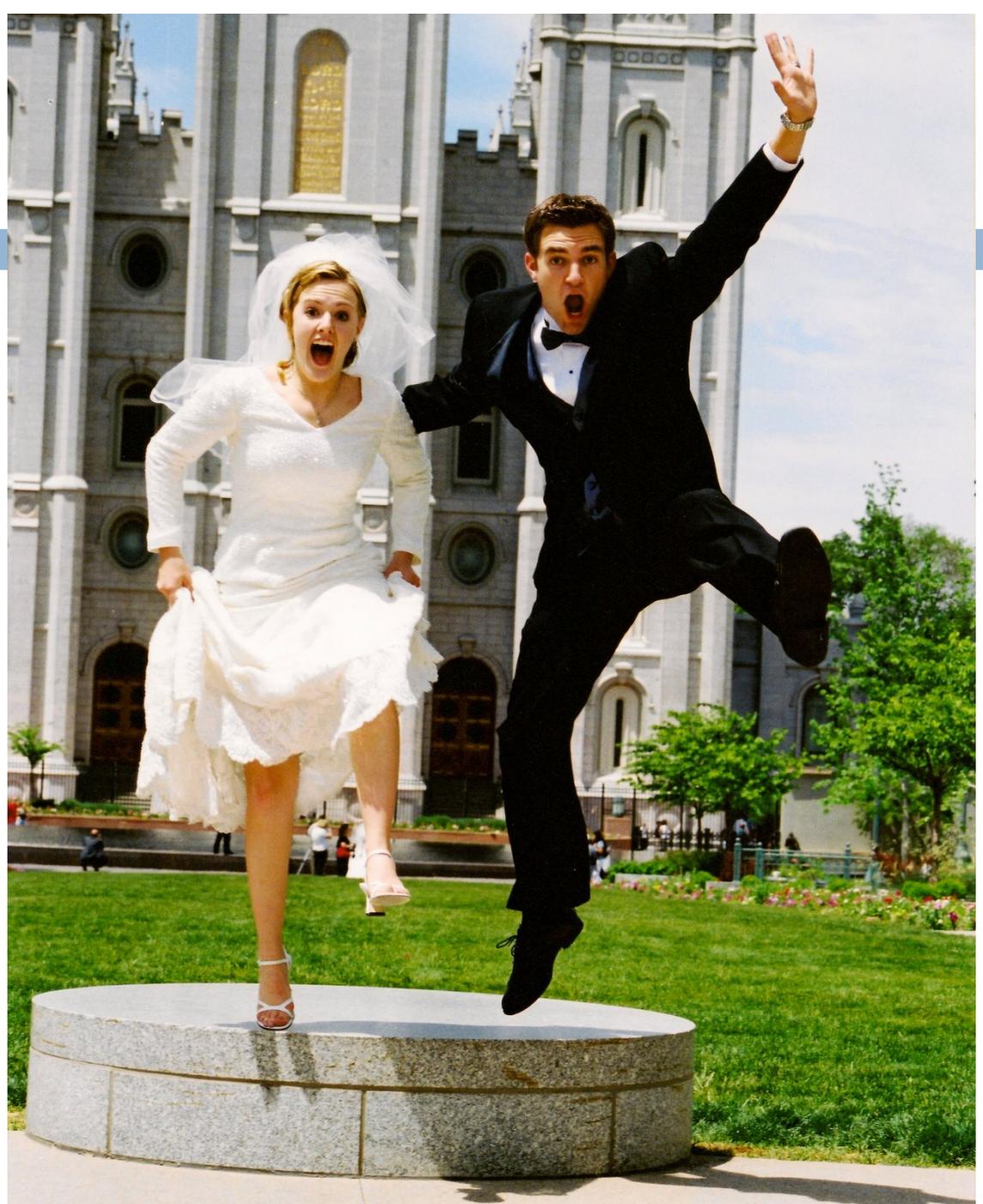
**“Each of us is under a divinely spoken obligation to reach out with pardon and mercy and to forgive one another. There is a great need for this Christlike attribute in our families, in our marriages, in our wards and stakes, in our communities, and in our nations.**

**We will receive the joy of forgiveness in our own lives when we are willing to extend that joy freely to others. Lip service is not enough.**

**We need to purge our hearts and minds of feelings and thoughts of bitterness and let the light and the love of Christ enter in. As a result, the Spirit of the Lord will fill our souls with the joy accompanying divine peace of conscience.”**



# Marriage



# Same-Sex Marriage (Two Attorneys)

In Canada, where same-sex marriage has now been in place for nearly a decade, 80% of married same-sex households with children in the home are female couples. This should surprise no one. Two women whose relationship is treated as a marriage and who want to have a child or children which they raise together as though both of them were the parents will have the means to do so readily at hand...

This is not always the case for the child's father, let alone non-fathers who would like to adopt. Hence, just as the vast majority of single parents actively involved in raising their children are single mothers, the vast majority of same-sex couples raising children will be two-female couples not two-male couples.

Accordingly, the ideal which will take the bigger hit from our society's promotion of same-sex parenting (just as the ideal which took the bigger hit from our society's earlier promotion of single parenting) will be the ideal of fatherhood, not the ideal of motherhood.

When sociologists refer to the "breakdown of the family" which has occurred in many American communities over the past 5 decades, what they are typically describing is the rise of an increasingly common new form of matriarchal family structure, in which fatherless children are raised by husbandless mothers.

Redefined marriage will bring us more such homes as a society which defines marriage as the union of any two persons explicitly and implicitly teaches a society's young men, fathers aren't essential in the lives of their children. This message, which is absolutely essential to redefined marriage, has and will inevitably continue to spill over into heterosexual relationships.

Chris Albright, April 16, 2013, Meridian Magazine

# Law Professor, Princeton, Univ

One way it would affect us is that enshrining the revisionist idea of marriage into law would send a message to society that marriage is not about children, but about adult emotional fulfillment.

If emotional fulfillment is the basis of marriage, then marital instability will increase because emotional unions are easily worn down. After all, what reason is there for people to stay together when their emotional connection is severed? It would be more like a friendship that runs its course and ends.

It would also obscure opposite-sex parenting as the ideal form of parenting, having erased it entirely from our legal framework.

We know kids do best when raised by their biological parents, so enshrining the revisionist view of marriage into law would have the effect of causing a greater number of children to be raised in less-than-optimal family structures, increasing social disorder in the process.

