

Worldly View of Womanhood

Ezra Taft Benson

"In the world today, there are observed strenuous efforts to distort and desecrate this divine pattern. We hear much talk — even among some of our own sisters — about so-called 'alternative life-styles' for women. It is maintained that some women are better suited for careers than for marriage and motherhood, or that a combination of both family and career is not inimical to either. Some have even been so bold as to suggest that the Church move away from the 'Mormon woman stereotype' of homemaking and rearing children. God grant that that dangerous philosophy will never take root among our Latter-day Saint women!

"I repeat: You are elect *because* you were elected to a certain work. How glorious is the knowledge that you are dignified by the God of heaven to be wives and mothers of Zion!

"The Church recognizes that not all women in the Church will have the opportunity for marriage and motherhood in mortality. Of necessity, some of our sisters have had to choose careers as a means of their own livelihood, and in some instances to provide for their families. But we do not encourage our young women to enter careers as lifelong objectives nor as alternatives to marriage and family. There is a godly and noble reason for this counsel. You were not created to be the same as men. Your natural attributes, affections, and personalities are entirely different from those of man. They consist of faithfulness, benevolence, kindness, and charity. They give you the personality of woman. They also balance the more aggressive and competitive nature of a man.

"The business world is competitive and sometimes ruthless. We do not doubt that women have both the brainpower and the skills — and in some instances superior abilities — to compete with men. **But by competing they must, of necessity, become aggressive and competitive. Thus their godly attributes are diminished and they acquire a quality of sameness with man.**

"... The conventional wisdom of the day would have you be equal with men. We say, we would not have you descend to that level. More often than not the demand for equality means the destruction of the inspired arrangement that God has decreed for man, woman, and the family. **Equality should not be confused with equivalence.** It is well to remember the inspired counsel of President David O. McKay: 'Woe to that home where the mother abandons her holy mission or neglects the divine instruction, influence, and example — while she bows, a devotee at the shrine of social pleasure; or neglects the essential duties of her own household, in her enthusiasm to promote public reform (CR, Oct. 1907, p. 63)' (emphasis added) (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, pp. 70-71).

M. Russell Ballard

"I am concerned about what I see happening with some of our young women. Satan would have you dress, talk, and behave in unnatural and destructive ways in your relationships with young men. The adversary is having a heyday distorting attitudes about gender and roles and about families and individual worth. He is the author of mass confusion about the value, the role, the contribution, and the unique nature of women. Today's popular culture, which is preached by every form of media from the silver screen to the Internet, celebrates the sexy, saucy, socially aggressive woman. These distortions are seeping into the thinking of some of our own women" (p. 69). . . . More than ever before we need women of faith, virtue, vision, and charity, as the Relief Society declaration proclaims. We need women who can hear and who will respond to the voice of the Lord, women who at all costs will defend and protect the family. We don't need women who want to be like men, sound like men, dress like men, drive like some men drive, or act like men. We do need women who rejoice in their womanhood and have a spiritual confirmation of their identity, their value, and their eternal destiny" (p. 72-73) ("Women of Righteousness," April 2002 *Ensign*, pp. 66-73).

Julie B. Beck

"Knowing and defending the divine roles of women is so important in a world where women are bombarded with false messages about their identity. Popular media figures on the radio and television set themselves up as authorities and spokespersons for women. While these media messages may contain elements of truth, most preach a gospel of individual fulfillment and self-worship, often misleading women regarding their true identity and worth. These voices offer a counterfeit happiness, and as a result, many women are miserable, lonely, and confused" (November 2007 *Ensign*, p. 110).

N. Eldon Tanner

"It is of great concern to all who understand this glorious concept that Satan and his cohorts are using scientific arguments and nefarious propaganda to lure women away from their primary responsibilities as wives, mothers, and homemakers. We hear so much about emancipation, independence, sexual liberation, birth control, abortion, and other insidious propaganda belittling the role of motherhood, all of which is Satan's way of destroying woman, the home, and the family—the basic unit of society" (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 5).

Spencer W. Kimball

"Some of those who write for the public have already gone after that which is far afield. They have chosen already to subvert the right way. They are telling you that it is not necessary to marry; it is not necessary to marry to have children; you may have all the worldly pleasures without these obligations and responsibilities. There is a pill. There is abortion. There are other ways to give you this loosely held, so-called freedom. They are telling you that you are manacled to your homes, to your husbands, to your children, to you housework. They are talking and writing to you about a freedom they know nothing about" (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 79).

Spencer W. Kimball

"There has never been a time in the world when the role of woman has been more confused. There has never been a time in the Church when women are able to do more to show what their true role in the world can and ought to be. The impact and influence of women and mothers on the world is most important. The thought 'the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world' is more viable today than ever before" (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 1).

Gordon B. Hinckley

"As I look to the future, I see little to feel enthusiastic about concerning the family in America and across the world . . . There is so much of child abuse. There is so much of spouse abuse. There is growing abuse of the elderly. All of this will happen and get worse unless there is an underlying acknowledgment, yes, a strong and fervent conviction, concerning the fact that **the family is an instrument of the Almighty**. It is His creation. It is also the basic unit of society.

"I lift a warning voice to our people. **We have moved too far toward the mainstream of society in this matter**" (emphasis added) (November 1997 *Ensign*, p. 69).

The Divine Role of Woman

First Presidency

"Motherhood is near to divinity. It is the highest, holiest service to be assumed by mankind. It places her who honors its holy calling and service next to the angels" (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 19).

Robert L. Backman

"Are women inferior to men? If women understood the full scope of their power to shape the future of the world, there would be danger of their having a superiority complex, for there is no greater power on earth than motherhood! Knowledge of its full scope and possibility should make women feel neither inferior nor superior, but truly humble and willing to learn that they may exercise that power unceasingly for the improvement and blessing of mankind" (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 154).

First Presidency

"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 of their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children" (Proclamation on the Family, September 23, 1995).

M. Russell Ballard

"Now finally, my dear sisters, you have such a profound, innate spiritual ability to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, you need never wonder again if you have worth in the sight of the Lord and to the Brethren in the presiding councils of the Church. We love you. We cherish you. We respect you. Never doubt that your influence is absolutely vital to preserving the family and to assisting with the growth and spiritual vitality of the Church. This Church will not reach its foreordained destiny without you. We men simply cannot nurture as you nurture. Most of us don't have the sensitivity, spiritual and otherwise, that by your eternal nature you inherently have. Your influence on families and with children, youth, and men is singular. You are natural-born nurturers" ("Here Am I, Send Me," in Ye Shall Bear Record of Me: Talks from the 2001 BYU Women's Conference (SLC: Deseret Book, 2002), 316-27.) (Also available at the following web site: http://ce.byu.edu/cw/womensconference/archive/2001/ballard_mrussell.html).

Ezra Taft Benson

"In the beginning, God placed a woman in a companion role with the priesthood. The Gods counseled and said that 'it was not good that the man should be alone; wherefore, I will make an help meet for him.' (Moses 3:18) Why was it not good for man to be alone? If it were only man's loneliness with which God was concerned, he might have provided other companionship. But he provided woman, for she was to be man's helpmeet. She was to act in partnership with him.

"In this pronouncement that it was not good for man to be alone, God declared a fundamental truth. The Lord God gave woman a different personality and temperament than man. By nature woman is charitable and benevolent, man is striving and competitive. Man is at best when complemented by a good woman's natural influence. She tempers the home and marriage relationship with her compassionate and loving influence.

"Yes, it is not good for man to be alone because a righteous woman complements what may be lacking in a man's natural personality and disposition" (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 69).

John A. Widstoe

"This equality does not ignore the natural differences between man and woman. Woman is the child bearer and child rearer. To this glorious function she gives a large part of her life. The man is the provider of the necessities and comforts of the family. This does not reduce woman to a dependent. Freed from family and household cares, she could as well probably earn the living for the family. It is rather a cooperative enterprise based upon a divinely ordained division of labor for forming, maintaining, and protecting the unit of society, known as the family. Husband and wife who conform to natural law and beget and rear children are performing

labors of equal importance. Each gains both freedom and power from such family life. One cannot look down upon the other. Both have the right as time and strength permit to exercise their talents as they may desire. Whenever these natural functions are set aside, frustration and defeat in life follow” (Relief Society Magazine, June-July 1943, 372-73).

John A. Widtsoe

“By divine fiat, the Priesthood is conferred on the men. This means that organization must prevail in the family, the ultimate unit of the Church. The husband, the Priesthood bearer, presides over the family; the priesthood conferred upon him is intended for the blessing of the whole family. Every member shares in the gift bestowed, but under a proper organization. No man who understands the gospel believes that he is greater than his wife, or more beloved of the Lord, because he holds the Priesthood, but rather that he is under the responsibility of speaking and acting for the family in official matters. **It is a protection to the woman** who, because of her motherhood, is under a large physical and spiritual obligation. Motherhood is an eternal part of the Priesthood” (emphasis added) (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, pp. 50-51).

Ezra Taft Benson

”Mothers in Zion, your God-given roles are so vital to your own exaltation and to the salvation and exaltation of your family. A child needs a mother more than all the things money can buy” (*To the Mothers in Zion* (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987) p. 8, a pamphlet).

Daniel H. Wells

“I say to the sisters, seek to have confidence in your husbands, and believe that they are capable of leading you; and when you seek instruction, believe them capable of giving it to you; and be faithful, humble, and obedient to them. Their feelings should not be concentrated in you, but your feelings should be in them, and theirs should be in those who lead them in the Priesthood. Their feelings are concentrated in the Lord their God and what is ahead, and there is where they should be. You should be glad to see them step forward and walk onward in the path of their duty, and not require them to devote themselves to you to the exclusion of things and duties of life which lie before them. As they progress and lead on, you will feel to travel in the same road. This is the order, and if order is maintained in this thing, you will see the beauty of it; and it will be a satisfaction to you and them to believe that your husband, he who is at your head, is progressing in the things of God” (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, pp. 48-49).

Rearing of Families

Boyd K. Packer

”The calamities that the Lord foresaw now come upon an unrepentant world. At once, generation after generation of youth come forward. They are given in marriage. They keep the covenants made in the house of the Lord. **They have children and do not let society set limits upon family life**” (emphasis added) (November 2004 *Ensign*, p. 88).

Julie B. Beck

“The things women can and should do very best are championed and taught without apology here. We believe in the formation of eternal families. That means we believe in getting married. We know that the commandment to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. That means we believe in having children. We have faith that with the Lord’s help we can be successful in rearing and teaching children. These are vital responsibilities in the plan of happiness, **and when women embrace those roles with all their hearts, they are happy!** Knowing and defending the truth about families is the privilege of *every* sister in this Church” (emphasis added) (November 2007 *Ensign*, p. 110).

Ezra Taft Benson

“A woman whose life is involved in the righteous rearing of her children has a better chance of keeping up her spirits than the woman whose total concern is centered in her own personal problems” (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 549).

Russell M. Nelson

“The Good Shepherd said, ‘Feed my lambs.’ So a woman feeds her loved ones, providing succor and sustenance just as the Savior would do. Her divine gift is to nurture, to help the young, to care for the poor, to lift the brokenhearted. The Lord said, ‘My work and my glory is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.’ So His devoted daughter-disciple may truly say, ‘My work and my glory is to help my loved ones reach that heavenly goal. To help another human being reach one’s celestial potential is part of the divine mission of woman. As mother, teacher, or nurturing Saint, . . . in partnership with God, her divine mission is to help spirits live and souls be lifted. This is the measure of her creation. It is ennobling, edifying, and exalting. . . . A woman’s richest rewards will come as she rises to fulfill her destiny as a devoted daughter of God” (November 1989 *Ensign*, p. 20).

David O. McKay

"Some young couples enter into marriage and procrastinate the bringing of children into their homes. They are running a great risk. **Marriage is for the purpose of rearing a family, and youth is the time to do it.** I admire these young mothers with four or five children around them now, still young, happy.

"The principal reason for marriage is to rear a family. Failure to do so is one of the conditions that cause love to wilt and eventually to die" (emphasis added) (Gospel Ideals, p. 466).

Julie B. Beck

"Mothers who know desire to bear children. Whereas in many cultures in the world children are 'becoming less valued,' in the culture of the gospel we still believe in having children. Prophets, seers, and revelators who were sustained at this conference have declared that 'God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force.' President Ezra Taft Benson taught that **young couples should not postpone having children** and that 'in the eternal perspective, children—not possessions, not position, not prestige—are our greatest jewels'" (emphasis added) (November 2007 *Ensign*, p. 76).

David O. McKay

"Marriage offers an opportunity to share in the love and care of children, and that is the true purpose of marriage. One writer truly says: 'Without children, or without believing that children are important, marriage is incomplete and unfulfilled. Children take time, trouble, and more patience than we usually have. They interfere with freedom, good times, and luxury, but children are the real purpose and reason behind marriage. **If we do not put the proper value on parenthood, we are not emotionally or socially ready for marriage**" (emphasis added) (Conference Report, April 1956, p.9).

Boyd K. Packer

"Never has a generation been so surrounded with those who speak irreverently of life. Never has there been such persuasion to avoid responsibilities of parenthood. . . . Young couples are continually told that parenthood means forfeiture of advanced degrees and limiting of occupational progress, a representation they will live to know is false. . . . Whether you will be blessed with many children or but a few, or perhaps experience parenthood through the raising of little ones left homeless, is a matter that will be made known as your life unfolds. But I urge you, I warn you to approach parenthood with reverence. When you covenant in marriage and are free to act in the creation of life, when you stand at the threshold of parenthood, know that you stand on holy ground. Recognize also that in those areas of greatest opportunity lie the snares of persistent temptation. . . . Young couples, draw reverently close to your Father in heaven in these monumental decisions of life. Seek inspiration from the teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Grow close to him. Perhaps you, as he, will come to "suffer the little children to come unto [you], and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God (Mark 10:14)" (Conference Report, October 1966, p. 132).

M. Russell Ballard

"I have been drawn to an interchange between God the Father and His Eldest and Only Begotten Son, who is the ultimate example of living up to one's pre-mortal promises. When God asked who would come to earth to prepare a way for all mankind to be saved and strengthened and blessed, it was Jesus Christ who said, simply, 'Here am I, send me' (Abraham 3:27).

"Just as the Savior stepped forward to fulfill His divine responsibilities, we have the challenge and responsibility to do likewise. If you are wondering if you make a difference to the Lord, imagine the effect when you make such commitments as the following:

'Father, if you need a woman to rear children in righteousness, Here am I, send me.'

'If you need a woman to make a house, a home filled with love, Here am I, send me.'

'If you need a woman who will shun vulgarity and dress modestly and speak with dignity and show the world how joyous it is to keep the commandments, Here am I, send me.'

'If you need a woman who can resist the alluring temptations of the world by keeping her eyes fixed on eternity, Here am I, send me.'

"Between now and the day the Lord comes again, He needs women in every family, in every ward, in every community, in every nation who will step forward in righteousness and say by their words and their actions, 'Here am I, send me.' My question today is, Will you be one of those women?" ("Here Am I, Send Me," in Ye Shall Bear Record of Me: Talks from the 2001 BYU Women's Conference (SLC: Deseret Book, 2002), 316-27). (Also available at:

http://ce.byu.edu/cw/womensconference/archive/2001/ballard_mrussell.html).

Concerning Education

Spencer W. Kimball

“It has been said, ‘When you educate a man, you educate an individual; but when you educate a woman, you educate a whole family’ (Dr. Charles D. McIver). We want our women to be well educated, for children may not recover from the ignorance of their mothers” (Address to religious educators; “Men of Example”, Temple Square Assembly Hall, 12 September, 1975).

Julie B. Beck

“Nurturing mothers are knowledgeable, **but all the education women attain will avail them nothing if they do not have the skill to make a home that creates a climate for spiritual growth.** Growth happens best in a ‘house of order,’ and women should pattern their homes after the Lord’s house (see D&C 109). Nurturing requires organization, patience, love, and work. Helping growth occur through nurturing is truly a powerful and influential role bestowed on women” (emphasis added) (November 2007 *Ensign*, p. 77).

Gordon B. Hinckley

“You have a mandate from the Lord to educate your minds and your hearts and your hands. The Lord has said, ‘Teach ye diligently . . . of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms—that ye may be prepared in all things’ (D&C 88:78–80).

“The Lord wants you to train your minds and hands to become an influence for good as you go forward with your lives. And as you do so and as you perform honorably and with excellence, you will bring honor to the Church, for you will be regarded as a man or woman of integrity and ability and conscientious workmanship. . . .

“In this day and time, a girl needs an education. She needs the means and skills by which to earn a living should she find herself in a situation where it becomes necessary to do so. . . .

“**Set your priorities in terms of marriage and family,** but also pursue educational programs which will lead to satisfying work and productive employment in case you do not marry, or to a sense of security and fulfillment in the event you do marry. Education will increase your appreciation and refine your talent” (emphasis added) (September 2007 *New Era*, pp. 2-5).

Julie B. Beck

“I was recently at a park where I met a group of women with mother hearts. They were young, covenant-keeping women. They were bright and had obtained advanced degrees from respected universities. Now they were devoting their considerable gifts to planning dinner that evening and sharing housekeeping ideas. They were teaching two-year-olds to be kind to one another. They were soothing babies, kissing bruised knees, and wiping tears. I asked one of those mothers how it came about that she could transfer her talents so cheerfully into the role of motherhood. She replied, ‘**I know who I am, and I know what I am supposed to do. The rest just follows.**’ That young mother will build faith and character in the next generation one family prayer at a time, one scripture study session, one book read aloud, one song, one family meal after another. She is involved in a great work. She knows that ‘children are an heritage of the Lord’ and ‘happy is the [woman] that hath [a] quiver full of them’ (Ps. 127:3, 5). She knows that the influence of righteous, conscientious, persistent, daily mothering is far more lasting, far more powerful, far more influential than any earthly position or institution invented by man. She has the vision that, if worthy, she has the potential to be blessed as Rebekah of old to be ‘the mother of thousands of millions’ (Gen. 24:60)” (emphasis added) (May 2004 *Ensign*, p. 76).

Ezra Taft Benson

“And now, so far as your work is concerned: It is divinely ordained what a woman should do, but a man must seek out his work. **The divine work of women involves companionship, homemaking, and motherhood.** It is well if skills in these three areas can first be learned in the parents' home and then be supplemented at school if the need or desire presents itself. The first priority for a woman is to prepare herself for her divine and eternal mission, whether she is married soon or late. **It is folly to neglect that preparation for education in unrelated fields just to prepare temporarily to earn money.** Women, when you are married it is the husband's role to provide, not yours. Do not sacrifice your preparation for an eternally ordained mission for the temporary expediency of money-making skills that you may or may not use. **I do not think it needs to be an "either/or" choice; but if it does, then choose the divine mission preparation.** Some women are well prepared for their mission and want to acquire additional skills in other areas; and that is fine, if they so desire. It is simply a case of putting first things first. To paraphrase the Lord, when He was speaking of those who obeyed the lesser law and neglected the weightier matters: these ye might do, but do not leave the other undone (see Matthew 23:23). Some women acquire money-making skills in areas closely related to their divine missions, and the advantages of that approach are plain” (emphasis added) (*BYU Speeches of the Year*, 1979, p. 64).

Ezra Taft Benson

“It is a misguided idea that a woman should leave the home, where there is a husband and children, to prepare educationally and financially for an unforeseen eventuality. Too often, I fear, even women in the Church use the world as their standard for success and basis for self-worth” (November 1981 *Ensign*, p. 105).

Spencer W. Kimball

“I have told many groups of young people that they should not postpone their marriage until they have acquired all of their education ambitions—that **when they marry they should not wait for children until they have finished their schooling** and financial desires. Marriage is basically for the family and when people have found their proper companions there should be no long delay. They should let the children come. There seems to be a growing feeling that marriage is for legal sex, for sex's sake. Marriage is basically for the family; that is why we marry—not for the satisfaction of sex, as the world around us would have us believe. Young wives should be occupied in bearing and rearing their children. I know of no scriptures where an authorization is given to young wives to withhold their families and to work to put their husbands through school. There are thousands of husbands who have worked their own way through school and have reared families at the same time. Though it is more difficult, young people can make their way through their educational programs” (emphasis added) (BYU Speeches of the Year, 1973, pp. 262-263).

Spencer W. Kimball

“**Young married couples who postpone parenthood until their degrees are attained might be shocked if their expressed preference were labeled idolatry.** Their rationalization gives them degrees at the expense of children. Is it a justifiable exchange? Whom do they love and worship—themselves or God? Other couples, recognizing that life is not intended primarily for comforts, ease, and luxuries, complete their educations while they move forward with full lives, having their children and giving Church and community service” (emphasis added) (Miracle of Forgiveness, p. 41).

Concerning Day Care

Spencer W. Kimball

“We have often said that this divine service of motherhood can be rendered only by mothers. It may not be passed to others. Nurses cannot do it; public nurseries cannot do it. Hired help cannot do it; kind relatives cannot do it. Only by mother, aided as much as may be by a loving father, brothers and sisters, and other relatives, can the full needed measure of watchful care be given. The mother who entrusts her child to the care of others that she may do nonmotherly work, whether for gold, for fame, or for civic service, should remember that ‘a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame’ (Proverbs 29:15)” (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 84).

Ezra Taft Benson

“It is a fundamental truth that the responsibilities of motherhood cannot be successfully delegated. No, not to day-care centers, not to schools, not to nurseries, not to babysitters.

“We become enamored with men’s theories such as the idea of preschool training outside the home for young children. Not only does this put added pressure on the budget, but it places young children in an environment away from mother’s influence” (November 1981 *Ensign*, p. 105).

Mothers Stay Home

Ezra Taft Benson

“Mothers, stay close to your daughters. Earn and deserve their love and respect. Be united with their father in the rearing of your children. Do nothing in your life to cause your daughters to stumble because of your example. Teach your daughters to prepare for life’s greatest career--that of homemaker, wife, and mother. Teach them to love home because you love home. Teach them the importance of being a full-time mother in the home” (*To the Young Women of the Church* (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1986), p. 12, a pamphlet).

Gordon B. Hinckley

“Some years ago President Benson delivered a message to the women of the Church. He encouraged them to leave their employment and give their individual time to their children. **I sustain the position which he took.**

Nevertheless, I recognize, as he recognized, that there are some women (it has become very many in fact) who have to work to provide for the needs of their families. To you I say, do the very best you can. **I hope that if you are employed full-time you are doing it to ensure that basic needs are met and not simply to indulge a taste for an elaborate home, fancy cars, and other luxuries.** The greatest job that any mother will ever do will be in nurturing, teaching, lifting, encouraging, and rearing her children in righteousness and truth. None other can adequately take her place.

It is well-nigh impossible to be a full-time homemaker and a full-time employee. I know how some of you struggle with decisions concerning this matter. I repeat, do the very best you can. You know your circumstances, and I know that you are deeply

concerned for the welfare of your children. Each of you has a bishop who will counsel with you and assist you. If you feel you need to speak with an understanding woman, do not hesitate to get in touch with your Relief Society president.

To the mothers of this Church, every mother who is here today, I want to say that as the years pass, you will become increasingly grateful for that which you did in molding the lives of your children in the direction of righteousness and goodness, integrity and faith. That is most likely to happen if you can spend adequate time with them. (emphasis added) (November 1996 *Ensign*, p. 69).

Ezra Taft Benson

"Brethren, it is your role to be the leader in the home. While the wife may be considered the heart of the home, you are the head. You are the provider, **and it takes the edge off your manliness when you have the mother of your children also be a provider**" (emphasis added) (*BYU Speeches of the Year*, 1979, p. 64).

Spencer W. Kimball

"I beg of you, you who could and should be bearing and rearing a family: wives, come home from the typewriter, the laundry, the nursing, come home from the factory, the cafe. No career approaches in importance that of wife, homemaker, mother--cooking meals, washing dishes, making beds for one's precious husband and children. Come home, wives, to your husbands. Make home a heaven for them. Come home, wives, to your children, born and unborn. Wrap the motherly cloak about you and, unembarrassed, help in a major role to create the bodies for the immortal souls who anxiously await" (As quoted in President Ezra Taft Benson's *To the Mothers in Zion* (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987), pp. 7-8, a pamphlet).

Ezra Taft Benson

"**The seeds of divorce are often sown and the problems of children begin when mother works outside the home.** You mothers should carefully count the cost before you decide to share breadwinning responsibilities with your husbands. It is a truism that children need more of mother than of money" (emphasis added) (November 1981 *Ensign*, p. 106).

Spencer W. Kimball

Numerous divorces can be traced directly to the day when the wife left the home and went out into the world into employment. Two incomes raise the standard of living beyond its norm. Two spouses working prevent the complete and proper home life, break into the family prayers, create an independence which is not cooperative, causes distortion, limits the family, and frustrates the children already born" (emphasis added) (As quoted in President Ezra Taft Benson's *To the Mothers in Zion* (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987), p. 7, a pamphlet).

Gordon B. Hinckley

"Your wife will be fortunate indeed if she does not have to go out and compete in the marketplace. She will be twice blessed if she is able to remain at home while you become the breadwinner of the family" (May 1998 *Ensign*, p. 50).

David B. Haight

"When mother is needed, she is needed right now, not in a couple hours, or a few minutes. Those children who are left to their own entertainment after school, who come home to an empty house, are more likely to go elsewhere to find someone who will listen to them. Sometimes they are lucky and find someone who can direct them wisely, but more often they find a peer who knows little more than they, or less. Can we take that risk?" (*Woman*, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 18).

Ezra Taft Benson

"Mothers in Zion, your God-given roles are so vital to your own exaltation and to the salvation and exaltation of your family. A child needs a mother more than all the things money can buy" (*To the Mothers in Zion* (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987) p. 8, a pamphlet).

Spencer W. Kimball

"What would be the condition of our communities of youths if the modern mothers, with their freedom from household drudgery, wealth of facilities, increased time, and greater training, were to concentrate upon the training of their children; if they were to come home from the factory and the office and the schoolroom in those years when children are in the home; if they were to reduce their social obligations, their entertainment, and selfish diversions; if they were to dedicate the major part of their time and energies and powers to the creation of a small heaven in their home, total co-operation with their husbands, and a limitless devotion, teaching, training, leading, developing their children; investing their lives in their families, using the Church, the gospel to the fullest extent in that training?" (*Relief Society Magazine*, Jan. 1958, p.8).

Has the Counsel Changed for Our Day?

James M. Paramore

“So here we see the roles of man and woman defined by prophets who spoke as moved upon by the Spirit. Man would be crowned with the priesthood--the power to bless his family and others; while woman would be for the man, a helpmeet to accomplish the purposes of God for all His children. Her role would not include receiving the priesthood; rather, it would be a special role, designated by God, to be a co-creator with him to ‘multiply, and replenish the earth, and . . . bring forth thy children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.’ She would become ‘the mother of all living’ (Genesis 1:28; 3:16, 20).

“These are concepts lost to the world by disobedience and pride. But **they are not lost to God, who has enunciated them in all dispensations of time to his prophets.** They have stood the test of time, for **they are eternal and essential** to the ultimate patriarchal order of families where righteous men, under the power of the priesthood of God, will bind their wives and children together for eternity” (emphasis added) (Woman, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1980, p. 51).

So What About You?

Julie B. Beck

“My dear sisters, our prophet, whom I sustain with all my heart, has said that there is a better way than the way of the world. He has called upon the women of the Church to stand together for righteousness. He has said that **if we are united and speak with one voice, our strength will be incalculable.** I have expressed to him my confidence that the women of this Church will stand strong and immovable in our faith in Jesus Christ and His restored gospel; strong and immovable in upholding, nourishing, and protecting our families; and strong and immovable in providing relief. May the Lord bless us as we do this most essential work of women . . .” (emphasis added) (November 2007 *Ensign*, p. 110).

Patricia T. Holland

“In the years ahead, some of the great defenders of priesthood roles for men will be women speaking to other women. A woman can speak to another woman in language men would not normally use and with a fervor men would not dare invoke. God has a view of women, who they are, what they do incomparably, and what eternally they will be. Women must seize that vision and embrace it, or they—and the human family with it—will perish” (To Rejoice as Women: Talks from the 1994 Women’s Conference, p. 107).

Sheri L. Dew

“Everyone of us has an overarching obligation to model righteous womanhood because our youth may not see it anywhere else. . . . How will our young women learn to live as women of God unless they see what women of God look like, meaning what we wear, watch, and read; how we fill our time and minds; how we face temptation and uncertainty; where we find true joy; and why modesty and femininity are hallmarks of righteous women? How will our young men learn to value women of God if we don’t show them the virtue of our virtues? . . . Look around. Who needs you and your influence? . . . Few of us will reach our potential without the nurturing of both the mother who bore us and the mothers who bear with us. . . . No woman who understands the gospel would ever think that any other work is more important or would ever say, ‘I am just a mother,’ for mothers heal the souls of men. . . . As mothers in Israel, we are the Lord’s secret weapon” (November 2001 *Ensign*, pp. 96, 98).

Julie B. Beck

“Who will prepare this righteous generation of sons and daughters? Latter-day Saint women will do this—women who know and love the Lord and bear testimony of Him, women who are strong and immovable and who do not give up during difficult and discouraging times. We are led by an inspired prophet of God who has called upon the women of the Church to ‘stand strong and immovable for that which is correct and proper under the plan of the Lord.’ He has asked us to ‘begin in [our] own homes’ to teach children the ways of truth. Latter-day Saint women should be the very best in the world at upholding, nurturing, and protecting families” (November 2007 *Ensign*, p. 78).

Spencer W. Kimball

“Every girl, and I say every girl, should prepare herself for marriage and for domestic responsibilities. You are not reading that in the magazines today, but it’s true nevertheless. She should be encouraged to be proud to prepare for true womanly service. She should become skilled in things that are useful and enriching to her family life. She should develop her talents, strengthen her knowledge and testimony of the gospel, and be eager to serve others” (The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p. 320).

Spencer W. Kimball

“How special it is for Latter-day Saint women to be given the lofty assignments they have been given by our Father in Heaven, especially those of you who have been privileged to be born in this part of this last dispensation. Let other women pursue heedlessly what they perceive as their selfish interests. You can be a much needed force for love and truth and righteousness on this

planet. Let others selfishly pursue false values, but God has given to you the tremendous tasks of nurturing families, friends, and neighbors, just as men are to provide. But both husband and wife are to be parents!” (November 1979 *Ensign*, p. 102).

Failure to Heed the Counsel

John A. Widstoe

“An understanding of the power of the Priesthood and its proper use precludes all feeling of any possible jealousy by either men or women. Where women choose to magnify their motherhood, either direct or vicarious, progress and happiness is the sure result. Indeed, a woman who would sacrifice the greatest of all earth professions, that of motherhood, which is hers by right of [gender], for the silly reason of proving that she can do a man’s work as well as any man, or for any other reason, **is something less than a true woman, and is to be pitied as well as condemned**” (emphasis added) (Priesthood and Church Government, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1939, pp. 89-90).

Melvin J. Ballard

“But woe to the woman who, having the opportunity and privilege, repudiates the obligation of holy matrimony, the great responsibility that rests upon her, who violates a promise and an agreement which undoubtedly we made to our Father before we left the courts of glory, that we would do our best, would perform our part. One of the great obligations that was upon us was to keep the first great commandment that God gave to man — to multiply and replenish the earth. We who slight that obligation, who willfully, maliciously, and premeditatively debauch these glorious bodies endowed with their wonderful creative powers, and make them mere harps of pleasure, shall come to reap distress and sorrow in this life and condemnation when we meet the accusing finger of those whom we might have given the glorious opportunity of coming into this life” (Crusader for Righteousness, Bookcraft Publishers, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1966, p. 129).

Bruce R. McConkie

“Just as it is possible for the very elect to be deceived, and to fall from grace through disobedience, so an elect lady, by failing to endure to the end, can lose her chosen status” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 217).