



## Church Connection February 2015

### *Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Liberty*

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*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies...*  
Ephesians 5:25 & 28a

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### **Mark Your Calendar!**

Wisconsin Family Council's "The Family-Wisconsin's Hope," presented by Julaine Appling

**Manitowoc** Pizza Ranch, Thursday, February 19, 6-8 p.m.

**Green Bay** Pizza Ranch, Thursday, March 12, 6-8 p.m.

For more information or to register for an event, call 888-378-7395

### **“Hath God Said?”**

With subtle deception, the serpent tricked Eve into thinking that God was keeping something good from her and Adam. He caused her to question the truth of God's Word and the reality that whatever God tells us is for our good.

In fact, God spoke clearly to Adam and Eve; and He has spoken clearly and truthfully to all of mankind. The trouble is that like Adam and Eve, we often choose to not listen to or believe what God has said. “Hath God said” that marriage is for one man and one woman for life? Indeed He has said that in His forever-settled, unchangeable Word.

Marriage was God's idea. He created mankind as male and female. In Scripture marriage is always the union of a man and a woman (Genesis 2:18-25 and Matthew 19:5).

God's normative standard for marriage is that it is a lifetime commitment. Jesus said very clearly, “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6).

God expects husbands to love and care for their wives (Ephesians 5:25, 28-29). Further, marriage is intended by God to be for the mutual benefit of husbands and wives (I Corinthians 7:2-4).

Among the benefits of marriage is physical protection of the wife by her husband, and the mutual protection of both from sexual temptation.

Let's never be ashamed or embarrassed about standing up for marriage as God's idea. All that God created was good. In fact, it was very good, and that includes marriage. Marriage is not a social institution that merely evolved to fulfill societal needs, or that men imposed on women to subjugate them. Rather it is foundational to the ordering of society. Marriage is as old as mankind because the Creator instituted it in the Garden of Eden.



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## Day at the Capitol, Thursday, March 19

Every two years Wisconsin Family Council offers our very popular “Day at the Capitol.” This is a day devoted to connecting you with your government. We’ll have key legislators and others speak and answer questions about legislative priorities this session. In addition, we’ll have opportunities to learn more about the heritage of our state capitol and participate in an exclusive question and answer time with key WFA/WFC staff.

WFA/WFC’s Day at the Capitol will take place at the Inn on the Park on Thursday, March 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch.

To reserve your place EARLY, call our office (toll free) 866-848-2536 or (Madison) 608-268-5074. Space is limited!

What if you don’t believe any of this about marriage? Anyone can choose to deny or disregard truth, but that will not alter reality. You can choose to ignore gravity and believe that jumping from a tall building is safe. But if you act on your choice to defy the truth, the consequences will in fact harm you. God in His mercy and common grace blesses all who honor His truth relative to marriage. Social science research makes this clear.

For example, married men and women are significantly less likely to be in poverty. When a couple choose love and commitment, they work at making sure that the needs of the family unit are met.

Research clearly shows that statistically, married men live longer than single men. Reasons for this may be varied but the seemingly inescapable conclusion is that marriage is good for men!

One reason marriage is good for women is the protection it provides. Research shows that married women are less likely to experience domestic violence than those who co-habit.

It is also a plain fact that when men and women honor God’s plans for physical intimacy by saving it for marriage, they do not need to worry about sexually transmitted diseases, many of which have life-long, not to mention life-shortening effects.

Finally, marriage is good for children, because when a mom and dad marry, and take seriously their responsibility for loving and providing for their children, children thrive. Children growing up in married mom and dad families are, among a host of other things, less likely to suffer abuse, less likely to experience poverty and material hardship, more likely to do well in school, and on average enjoy better physical health.

We have barely scratched the surface of the benefits of recognizing and abiding by God’s plan for this wonderful relationship that He created. By God’s design, marriage and the family are the foundations of society. We dare not stand idly by and allow the foundation to be destroyed.

Dave Lingle, Director of Church of Relations

(For documentation, see WFC’s *Wisconsin’s Cultural Indicators*, 2014 Edition, and *Why Marriage Matters*, Third Edition, published by the Institute for American Values National Marriage Project)

## About Wisconsin Family Council

*Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that since 1986 has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening and preserving marriage, family, life and liberty in our state.*

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