



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection February 2016

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

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make him an help meet for him... Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:18 & 24

Mark Your Calendar

WFC Presents:
"2016: It's All About You"

(Your impact in 2016)

Thurs., Feb. 25, 6-8 p.m.
Elkhorn Pizza Ranch

Thurs., Mar. 17, 6-8 p.m.
Manitowoc Pizza Ranch

Thurs., April 7, 6-8 p.m.
Appleton Pizza Ranch

Tuesday, Feb. 16

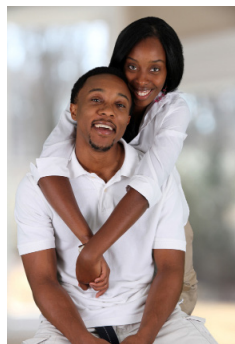
Non-partisan Wisconsin Primary Elections

What's So Great About Marriage?

The Creator defined marriage for us in the model He gave with the first male human, Adam, and the first female human, Eve, the two of whom He called "husband" and "wife." With reference to them specifically and to marriage in general, Jesus said, "What God has joined together, let not man separate."

The natural family then is a married mom and dad and any of their biological or adopted children. That is the gold standard, the ideal. Of course, we deal with reality—situations where the ideal has been fractured. These families need our compassion and support. But the gold standard remains, and whenever we as a society try to create a different standard for family, we suffer the whirlwind that attempt creates.

Because strong families begin with strong marriages, it is important to understand the benefits that God's plan for marriage brings. Incredibly, because of God's common grace, these benefits are reaped by believer and unbeliever alike.



- **Physical health.** Social science statistics continue to show that children who live with their own two married male-female parents enjoy better physical health, on average, than do children in other family forms. Infant mortality risks drop sharply when a child is born to a married mom and dad. Both married adults and teens in intact families have reduced rates of alcohol and substance abuse. Children growing up with their married moms and dads delay sexual activity. Married people, especially men, tend to live longer than those in other situations. Married men and women have, on average, better health and lower rates of injury, illness and disability—including among the minorities and poor, although that correlation has not been as thoroughly examined.
- **Mental health.** Marriage appears to also significantly reduce the risk of suicide. Married moms have lower rates of depression than do single or cohabiting moms.
- **Crime.** Boys reared with their married moms and dads

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Consider—

“From a public policy perspective, marriage is about uniting a man and a woman with each other as husband and wife to be father and mother to any children their sexual union produces. Marriage is based on the anthropological truth that men and women are complementary, the biological fact that reproduction depends on a man and a woman, and the social reality that children deserve a mother and a father.” p. 25, *Truth Overruled*, by Ryan Anderson (Regnery, 2015). This book is an excellent resource and addresses the future of marriage and religious freedom.

Pray—

- For the marriages in your church family
- For our legislators as they conclude this legislative session
- For Wisconsin Family Council to be an effective resource for churches in our state
- For upcoming elections

are less likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior. Marriage also reduces the risk that adults will be either perpetrators or victims of crime. Marriage also appears to reduce the risk of domestic violence for women. Children in intact families are at much less risk for experiencing child abuse, both physical and sexual.

- **Economics.** Natural marriage significantly decreases the risk of poverty for both children and their mothers. Married couples on average build more wealth than singles or cohabiting couples. Married men earn more money than do single men with similar education and job histories.
- **Education and vocations.** Children from intact families are more likely to succeed in school, graduate from college and achieve high-status jobs. Married men, on average, are better employees, than men in other relationship situations.

Connect the dots: if marriages are healthy and prolific, we all benefit. For example, health care costs go down, social services costs drop, local law enforcement budgets are reduced, and municipal and district court costs go down. Schools get more bang for our buck because the time and money spent dealing with kids suffering from depression, behavior problems and alcohol and drug abuse are reduced.

We cannot afford to leave marriage on the endangered species list. If we truly love our neighbors as ourselves, we must both live and speak the truth about marriage.

We do not have the luxury of pretending this is a political issue. It's not. As a biblical and moral issue it has significant political and social ramifications. God's people cannot—must not—remain silent. We must promote and celebrate the blessing of marriage and its value for all people in all places. We must find a way to ensure more babies are born into homes with married moms and dads. And we must consider the health of the natural family in our policies and legislation.

We celebrate and promote God's plan for marriage not for pragmatic reasons. We do it because it is right and good. When we do the right things the right way, an immeasurable cascade of blessings flow from one generation to the next.

For one of the most complete lists of the benefits of marriage, see *Why Marriage Matters, Third Edition*, Institute for American Values.

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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