



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



Church Connection March 2016

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

*...a prudent wife is
from the LORD.*

*Who can find a
virtuous woman? for
her price is far above
rubies. The heart of
her husband doth
safely trust in her...*

Proverbs 19:14b &
31:10-11a

Mark Your Calendar

WFC Presents:
"2016: It's All About You"
(Your impact in 2016)

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

Thurs., Mar. 31, 6-8 p.m.
Wausau Pizza Ranch

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

Tuesday, April 5

Spring Election
and Presidential
Preference Vote

Promoting a Culture of Marriage

The February issue of "Church Connection" sought to answer the question, "What's so great about marriage?" Hopefully the facts in that issue provided some basis for discussing the important issue of marriage in a meaningful and helpful way. The facts testify that God's plan for marriage and family will always be what is right and best. God doesn't make mistakes. We also think it is significant that social science research consistently finds that both children and adults, and by extension entire societies, experience the blessings of God's common grace when they honor His plan for marriage and family, whether they do so intentionally or not.

So where do we go from here? How should we then live in a culture that seems bent on the self-destruction that will surely result from rejecting God's good plan for marriage and family? What should our response be? How can we work to rebuild a marriage culture when the culture around us seems intent on destroying it? As Ryan Anderson in his outstanding book *Truth Overruled* observes, "*the church—either through action or inaction—will play a major role in the debate over the meaning of marriage.*"



Anderson suggests a fourfold mission for the church that we think is worth considering. The most important and at the same time the most challenging task is to **live out the truth about marriage and human sexuality**. Marriage and family done biblically testify to the culture the truth and the blessings of the gospel (Ephesians 5). "*Husbands and wives must be faithful to one another for better and for worse till death do them part. Mothers and fathers must take their obligations to their children seriously.*" The unmarried need to be chaste in their deportment now to honor God and to prepare for marriage should God lead that way. "*The beauty and splendor of a happy family is*

continued on back

Consider...

“Christians in obedience to Christ cannot quit seeking a society that leads to human flourishing. Christians committed to the Bible cannot believe that human flourishing can come at the expense of recognizing marriage as the union of a man and a woman, or at the expense of recognizing sex as God’s gift to be directed by his sovereign plan. Love of neighbor compels us to be involved in the cultural conversation and in the struggle to protect the most basic institution of civilization—the monogamous, covenantal union of a man and a woman.”
R. Albert Mohler, *We Cannot Be Silent*, 2015, p. 150.

Pray...

- For the marriages and families in your church.
- For Wisconsin Family Council to be an effective resource for churches in our state.
- For the elections in April.

our most eloquent testimony.”

Secondly, the church needs to work on **making sure that our teaching and preaching about human sexuality are appealing, and that they respond to modern thinking.** What should we do in our families and churches to intentionally and effectively communicate God’s plan for human sexuality? The world and the culture are making their voices heard in many ways. What will we do to counter the false views being promoted?

The third mission is to **develop appropriate ministries and responses for those who experience same-sex attraction or are struggling with gender-identity issues.** This may move us out of our comfort zones, but what is the alternative? We need to be educated and informed biblically for the sake of our children and our grandchildren, our neighbors and our co-workers. God’s plan for human sexuality is beautiful, but that doesn’t mean it comes easily for everyone. The church needs to address these issues with both compassion and humility, even as we uphold the truth.

Finally, the church **needs to defend religious liberty and “help conscientious Christians understand how to bear witness to the truth when a radical sexual agenda has become a nonnegotiable public policy.”** Helping bakers, florists, photographers, school teachers and others know how to respond in their respective vocations is vitally important, and the church will need to teach Christians *“the moral principles to apply to their own circumstances.”* The church also needs to help the rest of our society to understand the importance of religious freedom. As Anderson observes, *“The national conversation on this important civil liberty hasn’t been going well, and Indiana revealed how extreme a position the corporate and media establishments have staked out. They have the money and the megaphones. We have the truth.”*

Promoting a culture of marriage is just one of the ways the church can directly impact the very real needs of men, women and children. The world is dying for lack of the truth. It is both our privilege and responsibility to be clear and shining examples of the beauty and wisdom of God’s plan.

Quotations are from Ryan Anderson, *Truth Overruled*, pp. 189-192.

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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