



Church Connection February 2019

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

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Matthew 19:4-6

Join us for...

*"Making Wisconsin Great
One Family at a Time"*

This is an outstanding and practical challenge by Julaine Appling, WFC president.

Thurs., Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m.,
Plover Pizza Ranch

Thurs., Feb. 21, 6-8 p.m.,
Green Bay East Pizza
Ranch

Thurs., Mar. 7, 6-8 p.m.,
Portage Pizza Ranch

Thurs., Mar. 14, 6-8 p.m.,
Weston Pizza Ranch

"It Was Very Good"

Genesis 1:31 records that "God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." That observation includes the creation of man and woman and their union (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24; Matt. 19: 3-6). Scott Walker, while governor, issued five proclamations recognizing the good of marriage and proclaiming February 7-14 as Marriage Week throughout Wisconsin, urging all citizens to observe this special week. These proclamations were part of National Marriage Week USA, a movement to celebrate and promote the good of marriage.

In 2018 the governor's proclamation stated that *"research has shown that married couples live longer, healthier and happier lives with greater economic stability...that marriage helps provide a stable environment that fosters a culture of success for adults and their children; and...children who grow up in homes with married parents are more likely to be successful in school and exhibit fewer behavioral problems; and...healthy marriages save taxpayers throughout the nation hundreds of millions of dollars annually by reducing...need for government assistance; and...it is important to acknowledge that the institution of marriage is inarguably good for individuals and the foundation of a successful society..."* Previous proclamations were equally clear and strong in their support of the blessings of marriage.



Statistics support these claims. We know from tens of thousands of social science research studies and reports that the very best environment for children is to be brought up in the home of their married mom and dad. Children raised by their married moms and dads are, for instance, much less likely than their peers living in other situations, to experience poverty, failure in school, criminal activity, abuse of any kind, early sexual activity, and drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.¹

Consider these statistics:

- An average of 45% of Caucasian, Hispanic/Latino and African American single-parent homes with children are living in poverty in Wisconsin. Nearly 53% of single female African American householders in Wisconsin with minor children

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Please Pray

- For the marriages in your church.
- For God to do a mighty work in the hearts and lives of His people, that we would “do justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly” with our God.
- For God’s help that we would all be effective witnesses, “full of grace and truth.”

Thank You!

If you have purchased a ‘Choose Life’ license plate, you belong to a very special group of people in Wisconsin who have made it possible for Choose Life Wisconsin to give over \$30,000 last year to women-helping, life-saving, pro-life pregnancy care centers in Wisconsin. **Thank you** for being a difference-maker. Well over 1,000 of these plates are now on vehicles in our state. Will you consider doing your part this year to make this the most popular license plate in our state?

We recommend: *Marriage Matters: Extraordinary Change Through Ordinary Moments*, Winston Smith, New Growth Press, 2010, 304 pp.

had household income below the poverty level (2016 U.S. Census Bureau 5-year estimate). 32% of White female householders with minor children were below the poverty level, and almost 50% of Hispanic/Latino female householders.

- States with the highest rate of married parent families enjoyed in 2014, on average, a \$1,451 higher per capita GDP, 10.5% greater upward income mobility for children from lower-income families, a 13.2% decline in the child poverty rate, and a \$3,654 higher median family income.²
- Unwed childbirths and divorces cost Wisconsin taxpayers at least \$1 billion every year.
- Since 1980, the marriage rate in Wisconsin has dropped about 40%. 21% of that drop was from 2000-2010. A major contributing factor to this drop is cohabitation, which continues to escalate. (Cohabiting relationships are nearly as bad for the adults, and are as bad for children, as single-parent situations.)

While marriage rates have dropped, births to unwed women have increased to the point that in 2016, 37% of all babies born in Wisconsin were born to unwed mothers, and in 2014 64% of all babies born in our state were paid for by Medicaid.

Clearly, just the economic impact on society of the breakdown of marriage and family is staggering. This breakdown also carries a serious price tag spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. No wonder Wisconsin’s former governor issued these proclamations.

Marriage is good because God created it. Because of its inherent goodness, it also helps the state better manage our tax dollars. Officials at every level of government would serve all of us better by championing marriage rather than redefining, denigrating or penalizing it.

Churches and communities do well to find ways to celebrate, encourage, promote and strengthen marriage, especially February 7-14. Our good God knew what He was doing. Marriage is a great good for everyone. By recognizing and promoting this, we reap benefits today and for eternity, and we honor the wisdom of our Creator God who declared that marriage is “very good.”

¹*Why Marriage Matters*, Third Edition, Institute for American Values National Marriage Project, 2011.

²*Strong families, prosperous states: Do healthy families affect the wealth of states?*, W. Bradford Wilcox, Robert I. Lerman, Joseph Price, October 19, 2015, American Enterprise Institute and the Institute for Family Studies, available at: <https://www.aei.org/publication/strong-families-prosperous-states/> [accessed on January 24, 2019].

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. 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, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

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