



*An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL*

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

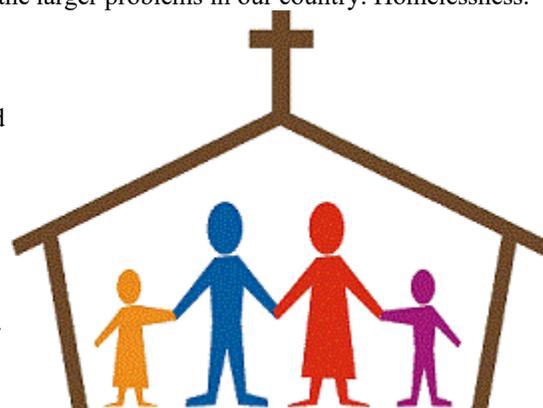
## God's Good Plan

Two weeks ago I attended a "State of Milwaukee" symposium. The focus was on the difference Christian churches have made and can make in Milwaukee with a view to what kinds of appropriate gospel actions and motivations should characterize gospel ministries moving forward.

The time provided a lot to digest and ponder. Our cities, tragically, reflect some of the larger problems in our country. Homelessness. Racism. Abuse. Violence. Child neglect—or worse. You get the idea.

The focus of the symposium, at least in part, was on the role churches can play in alleviating some of these challenges. Love for neighbor compels us to be concerned and involved. A lot of churches are doing a lot of good things, making a real difference. But you probably aren't going to read or hear about that in the secular media.

This email is not intended to advocate some form of "social gospel," though I believe there is a place for seeking to help with the temporal needs people have (*cf.* James 2:15-16). I also believe the greatest need any individual has is to place his or her faith in the resurrected Jesus. Sharing the gospel and sharing material help are not mutually exclusive activities, though it can be easy to focus on one to the exclusion of the other.



However, we have a greater issue that often gets missed in discussing societal needs, and that is the adverse impact of single parenting and divorce. Societal problems will persist and grow to the extent that we continue to walk away from God's plan for marriage and the family. Intact married dad and mom families are happier and healthier in virtually every way that can be measured.\* This is one of the inherent blessings of doing family God's way.

Here is my point. While ministries seek to alleviate the suffering we see on a daily basis, especially in our larger cities, let's also focus on teaching and preaching about God's good plan—the family—a married man and woman, who commit to each other for a lifetime, and who also commit to lovingly and sacrificially providing for and educating any children that God gives them.

**We simply cannot improve on God's good plan called "the family."** The further our culture runs from God's plan, the more severe will be the problems we face in our communities, whether major cities, suburban or rural. The law of sowing and reaping is inescapable. Love of neighbor should compel us to share the truth of the Gospel as well as how good God's plan for the family is.

If we give people bread for a day but fail to lead them to the Bread of Life, then we have failed to be the church, giving up the Great Commission for a temporal mission. Let us guard against our churches becoming mere social agencies. Let us do all we can to make sure the church continues to be the church.

If we really care about the ills plaguing our society, we will hold up the truth that the God who created us also knows what is best for us. **People thrive to the extent that the family unit thrives.**

Julaine Appling sums it up this way: "As the family, so the state." If we would seek the good of the cities where God has placed us (*cf.* Jeremiah 29:7), then we must promote God's good plan for the family.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave".

Dave Lingle  
WFC Church Ambassador

PS: Please see Wisconsin Family Council's *Wisconsin's Cultural Indicators, 2019 edition*, for carefully researched and thoroughly

documented statistics relative to marriage, family and sanctity of life in our state. You can contact our office at 888-378-7395 for a printed copy, or download a free pdf version online [HERE](#).

PPS: If you are in the Wausau area, please join us for **“2020 Vision: Contending for the Faith, Challenging the Culture”** on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 p.m. at the Wausau City Square Center. Register online [HERE](#), or call us at 888-378-7395. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly will be joining us for this event.

\*See, for example, the significant research findings in the publication, [\*Why Marriage Matters, Third Edition: Thirty Conclusions from the Social Sciences\*](#).

Want some documentation of the attitudes of the culture about family? Check this out from the Women’s March [HERE](#).