



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection

April 2020

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

Charity [love] suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, Charity never faileth...

I Cor. 13:4-8a

Plan Now to Vote!

Tuesday, April 7, Spring
General Election,
including State Supreme
Court Justice

PRAY...

- That God's people will have wisdom to know best how to serve God and others during this COVID-19 epidemic.
- That God will use this virus to turn people's hearts to Him.
- That our local, state and national leaders will be wise about how to most effectively and appropriately respond to this crisis.

Family: The Foundation of It All

In 1947 Carle Zimmerman, a renowned professor of sociology at Harvard University, published a book titled *Family and Civilization*. The book included a list of traits that were evident in nations and cultures shortly before their demise. Virtually all of the traits or “forms of behavior” deal with God’s plan for the family.

Here is Zimmerman’s list of behaviors that he concluded preceded the fall of such empires as Greece and Rome. Remember—this was written in 1947.

- Increased and rapid, easy, “causeless” divorce. (Guilty-and-innocent-party theory became a pure fiction.)
- Decreased number of children, population decay and increased public disrespect for parents and parenthood.
- Elimination of the real meaning of the marriage ceremony.

- Popularity of pessimistic doctrines about the early heroes.



- Rise of theories that marriage strictly for companionship and not procreation or a permissible looser family form would solve the problem.

- The refusal of many people married under the older family form to maintain their traditions while other people escape these obligations. Zimmerman notes Greek and Roman mothers refused to stay home and bear children.

- The spread of the anti-nuclear-family mentality popular with the urbane and pseudo-intellectual classes to the very outer limits of the civilization.

- Breaking down of most inhibitions against adultery.

- Revolts of youth against parents so that parenthood became more and more difficult for those who did try to raise children.

- Rapid rise and spread of juvenile delinquency.

- Common acceptance of all forms of sexual perversion.¹

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Our nation's response to COVID-19 is unprecedented, impacting our lives in ways we have not seen for decades. How are we to respond?

First, we remember that our good God is sovereign. Nothing catches Him off-guard. While we need to regulate our behavior in appropriate ways, we do not panic. We know that God works all things together for good—including epidemics.

Second, we continue to take care of our own families, a priority that never changes. Interruptions of our routines are opportunities for personal spiritual growth and for teaching and modeling to our children and grandchildren the difference between how Christians respond to crisis and how unbelievers respond. We respond in hope and in confidence because we know Who holds tomorrow!

Third, we do what we can to bless others. That may include checking on our neighbors to be sure they have necessities, or volunteering at a food bank. It may be as normal as showing up to work or patronizing local businesses who may be hard hit. It certainly includes practicing recommended guidelines for good hygiene to minimize the spread of this virus, or any other virus or germ. And we absolutely must maintain our giving commitment to our local churches, whether services are held or not.

In short, we pray, serve and sacrifice. This is our privilege as ambassadors for the King of kings in both good and hard times.

You don't have to be a scholar to recognize the extent to which many of these eleven traits describe modern America.

Zimmerman wasn't a fatalist. He didn't believe America is doomed to repeat the same mistakes and suffer the same tragedy as other once-great, now-gone nations and cultures. He was, however, warning us. Throughout the book, he makes the case for cultural and government changes to restore at the most basic level in our society a standard for family—with that standard being what at Wisconsin Family Council, we call the Gold Standard—or better said, God's Standard. That very clear standard that has never changed and never will change is a man and a woman married to one another in a lifelong, monogamous relationship, typically with children—either biological or adopted.

Our motivation is not that we build strong families so we have a strong country. Rather, we build strong families because it glorifies God, is best for children and promotes the work of God's Kingdom. The blessing of a strong country is just a natural consequence of doing what is right. We reap as we sow (Gal. 6:7).

We may believe, as a country, that we can reject the lessons of history, erode the traditional “nuclear” family, and survive. We can't, we won't, and we aren't.

So what do you do in the midst of this? How can you help reverse the trend? Strengthen your family unit—intentionally and purposefully. Pray together, worship together, play together. Talk, teach by example and word, and invest time in your family. Make your marriage and family a priority. Be sure your children know marriage between a man and a woman is biblical and beautiful and that children are a gift from God—not a nuisance, burden or impediment.

You can also counter the lies promoted in our culture. Stand up for God's plan for family. Don't just silently disagree when others make it seem that all forms of family are equal. They aren't, and you know that. Politely, lovingly, respectfully challenge their thinking. Demand that elected officials respect the traditional, nuclear married mom and dad family in their policies.

For the sake of our children and the good of our neighbors, let's work and pray so that our country not be doomed to become another example of a great nation that fell because the family, the foundation of it all, disintegrated.

¹Zimmerman, Carle C., *Family and Civilization*, ISI Books, p. 255.

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.

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