

# CHURCH CONNECTION

APRIL 2023



## THEM BEFORE US: IT'S TIME

In 2021, Katy Faust and Stacy Manning published *Them Before Us*, a book with a catchy title. “Them” is children and “us” is adults. The perspective of *Them Before Us*, and the organization by that name (see [thembeforeus.com](http://thembeforeus.com)) is that the rights and needs of children should take priority over adult desires.

The organization “Them Before Us” is making this issue its sole focus. Katy Faust and Stacy Manning have done the heavy lifting of deep research documenting the social science findings that support what really should be common sense and what is certainly God’s plan.

So what are the inherent rights and needs of children? Faust and Manning boil them down to this. First, “Children have a fundamental right to be known and loved by the two people who made them: their mother and father. It’s a right that’s recognized worldwide.” Second, relative to their needs: “And it goes way beyond being ‘safe and loved.’ Children are made for the daily love and involvement of both their biological mother and father.” Denying these very real rights and needs spells disaster for children in every way.

For decades now, adult desires have been elevated over the rights and needs of children in much of our lawmaking and in court decisions. Much of this started with no-fault divorce laws that gained popularity in the seventies and eighties, following the tumultuous sexual-revolution of the sixties.

Men and women who determined they were not happy in their marriage wanted an easy, no-fault way to get out. Often, people just wanted what they thought were “greener” pas-

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### Mark Your Calendar!

**April 4, Spring non-partisan general election**

**LEAD Wisconsin Registration is now open!**

LEAD WI is our Biblical worldview & leadership camp for 13-19 yr olds. Visit [leadwi.org](http://leadwi.org) for more information!

### Check This Out!

Earlier this year, we did a “Lunch With A Purpose” webinar with author Katy Faust. This webinar was impactful. We encourage you to access it and listen to it. The recording is available at [wifamilycouncil.org/events/lunch-with-a-purpose/](http://wifamilycouncil.org/events/lunch-with-a-purpose/). We also highly recommend her book, *Them Before Us*.

**STRENGTHENING,  
PRESERVING & PROMOTING  
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

*“Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.”*  
Luke 17:1-2



tures, so to speak, or they wanted sexual freedom without the responsibility of a spouse and family. Lawmakers across the country happily complied.

Soon, a dad or mom could walk away from his or her family with impunity to seek his or her happiness. Children? Well, they were inconsequential. Besides, children are flexible and resilient, right? They'll recover and certainly they'll be

better off if dad or mom is happy, even if dad or mom is no longer living in the home as a full-time parent.

Step-families followed—but step-families are not the same as a child living with his or her married biological parents. Faust points out that research shows step-parents statistically don't care for or provide for their step-children in the same way they do for their own biological children. In these situations, after a divorce in particular, the relationship sought by the step-parent is with the child's mother or father. That is the focus, not the children. There are notable exceptions, of course, but this is the norm, statistically speaking.

Now we have adoption by same-sex couples, which intentionally deprives a child of either a mother or a father. But again these couples are focused on their own personal "fulfillment" and perceived "happiness."

Adoption by a married mom and dad typically is different in that these adults are looking to mend the loss of a child's biological parents. Adoption should be about making life better for a child. Simply put, adoption is rightly for the benefit of children, not adults.

"Them before us" is actually God's plan and purpose revealed to us in Genesis. Men and women marrying, having children, and staying together to rear those children. As always, God's way is the best way.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea," (Mathew 18:6). Contemplate this warning. When the grace-filled Lord of the universe uses such graphic and terrifying language, we do well to carefully consider the implications of what He says. Children, the most vulnerable among us, routinely bear the brunt of adult choices. Jesus clearly cared a great deal for children and their well-being. We realize that some will find this message difficult to hear, but we are compelled to sound the warning: If we intentionally choose family structures that ignore or reject God's plan for marriage and family, we are venturing into very dangerous territory. We implore one and all—don't go there. More depends on it than we can begin to realize.

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) 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 they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

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

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