

CHURCH CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2023



KEEPING "FAMILY" IN CHRISTMAS

Wisconsin Family Council is all about strengthening, preserving, and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in Wisconsin. That means we promote such ideas as preserving traditional marriage in our culture. It means we support all efforts to protect human life from the moment of conception until natural death. It also means we seek to preserve the religious freedom our God has given to us and that our forefathers secured in the Constitution.

Mark Your Calendar!

January 16

National Religious
Freedom Day

January 21

Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday

We prefer to be proactive and positive, but we sometimes also have to be on the defensive. This means we oppose:

- Any trend that threatens traditional marriage.
- Legalizing any relationship and calling it marriage that is not one man and one woman in a monogamous, lifelong relationship.
- No-fault divorce because it weakens families and causes children untold trauma.
- Any effort to advance abortion, as well as any and all efforts to legalize assisted suicide.
- Efforts to silence Christians in the public arena—the marketplace of ideas.

However, in the midst of all the "for and against," we are fundamentally about **families**. We believe God's plan for humanity is rooted in the family unit, headed by one-man/one-woman marriages. As such, we believe the family unit should be strengthened everywhere possible. We know strong families are made one at a time and that strong families make strong churches, which make strong communities, that in turn give us strong states and ultimately a strong nation. That's God's way.

Making and keeping a family unit strong is hard work. It's never been easy, but it is especially hard today because of the multiple forces working to destroy that vital unit. Two parents working, geographic distance between extended family members, the media,

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

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply..." - Gen 1:27-28a



entertainment, technology, busy schedules, etc., mean that parents must work harder than ever to ensure a healthy and strong family.

Even how America celebrates Christmas can be a force that is more destructive than constructive for families. Already-busy schedules become over-burdened. Life is dominated by all the activities we deem necessary to have a "good Christmas." Instead of enjoying the season

and being joyous and appealing, we're all too often irritated and alienating. Of all the times in the year when we should truly be celebrating family, it's Christmas, when we recognize the coming of the Christ Child to a family done God's way in Bethlehem.

Celebrate Christmas this year with Jesus **and your family** truly at the center. Nurture relationships within your immediate and extended family, listening attentively especially to your children and your spouse, but also remember other relatives.

Plan fun things to do as a family, but don't overload the schedule. Focus on those activities that give your entire family the greatest opportunity to celebrate meaningfully together. Be sure to read the Christmas account together and attend your church's Christmas services. sitting together as a family. Decide as a family how you can best exemplify the biblical teaching of it's more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20:35). Take special care to protect your marriage. Don't let frenetic schedules rob you of time together. Strong families start with strong marriages.

A popular song tells us that Christmas is "the most wonderful time of the year." That's true—if your family is strengthened during this holy season. Dads and Moms: Purpose and plan that in the midst of all the wonderful celebrations of this glorious Christmas season you will find a way to strengthen and preserve that most precious of earthly relationships—your family!

THE BLESSING OF FAMILY

After God created Adam, He blessed him with a wife, Eve, and told them to have children, *i.e.*, to become a family. To be sure, the best blessing any of us could have is to belong to the family of God through faith in Jesus. But perhaps the next very best blessing is the experience of honoring the wisdom of God by following His plan for family. Family done God's way is a blessing to the individuals in the immediate and extended family and ultimately to all of society. As always, God's way is the best way.

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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