

# Male and Female Created He Them

Lesson 7

D&C 38:27

## Personal Study

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Understand the divine callings of men and women.

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President Spencer W. Kimball, speaking of the creation of Adam and Eve, said:

“As they completed this magnificent creation, they looked it over and pronounced it ‘good, very good’—something that isn’t to be improved upon by our modern intellectuals; the male to till the ground, support the family, to give proper leadership; the woman to cooperate, to bear children, and to rear and teach them. It was ‘good, very good.’

“And that’s the way the Lord organized it. This wasn’t an experiment. He knew what he was doing” (“The Blessings and Responsibilities of Womanhood,” *Ensign*, March 1976, p. 71).

Why is there confusion in the world today about the proper callings of men and women? Do you understand what the gospel teaches about these callings? Can you find security and peace in fulfilling your calling?

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### 1 The Man Is to Preside, Provide, and Protect

■ Genesis 3:16–19. What is the calling the Lord gave to the man?

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President Spencer W. Kimball commented: “I have a question about the word *rule*. It gives the wrong impression. I would prefer to use the word *preside* because that’s what he does. A righteous husband presides over his wife and family” (“The Blessings and Responsibilities of Womanhood,” p. 72). How should a husband preside over his wife and children? \_\_\_\_\_

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■ 1 Timothy 5:8. What does this verse say man is to do? Can a man justifiably reject the responsibility to provide for his family or transfer it to government, to the Church, or to his wife? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

■ Of a man's duty to provide for his wife, President David O. McKay said, "Woman's mission and throne is the family, and if anything is withheld that would make her more efficient, useful, or happy in that sphere, she is wronged and has not her rights" (*Church News*, 24 Jan. 1970, p. 2). How can a man lighten his wife's load? With what should he provide her? \_\_\_\_\_

■ Ephesians 5:25. How can you love your wife as required in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

President Kimball said:

"Can you think of how [Christ] loved the Church? Its every breath was important to him. Its every growth, its every individual, was precious to him. He gave to those people all his energy, all his power, all his interest. He gave his life—and what more could one give? . . .

"When the husband is ready to treat his household in that manner, not only his wife but also his children will respond to his loving and exemplary leadership. It will be automatic. He won't need to demand it" (*Men of Example*, address to religious educators [published by the Church Educational System], 12 Sept. 1975, p. 5).

How can you provide for and protect your wife and your family in this manner? \_\_\_\_\_

How much of your life are you giving to them now? \_\_\_\_\_

■ Elder Bruce R. McConkie wrote: "[Husbands] must . . . love their wives, sacrifice for their well-being and salvation, and guide them in holiness until they are cleansed, sanctified, and perfected, until they are prepared for exaltation in that glorious heaven where the family unit continues. Husbands thus become in effect the saviors of their wives" (*Doctrinal New Testament*

Commentary, 2:519). How can a man guide his wife and children in holiness? What personal attributes must he possess if he is to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

■ What should be our priorities? Elder L. Tom Perry said:

"Brethren, your first and most responsible role in life and in the eternities is to be a righteous husband.

"Second only to the title of husband is that of father"  
("Father—Your role, Your Responsibility," in Conference Report, Oct. 1977, p. 96; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, p. 63).

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## 2 Woman Is to Be a Wife and a Mother

■ Genesis 2:18; 3:16. What is the calling the Lord gave to the woman? \_\_\_\_\_

*Meet* means *suitable* or *proper*. What does it mean to be a help *meet*, or *suitable*, for man? \_\_\_\_\_

■ D&C 25:5. What instruction did the Lord give to Emma Smith? \_\_\_\_\_

Can this same instruction apply to all wives? \_\_\_\_\_

President Kimball said: "Women are expected to earn the living only in emergencies, and . . . many are the broken homes resulting when women leave their posts at home. You see, if both husband and wife are working away from home and come home tired, it is very easy for unpleasantness and misunderstandings to arise" (*Faith Precedes the Miracle*, p. 129).

■ Moses 4:26. In addition to being a wife, which is a woman's foremost calling, she is also a mother. President N. Eldon Tanner said, "The happiest women I know are those whose families would rather be home than any place else; whose children come bounding in after school to look for Mother to tell her about their activities of the day; who share the sorrows and joys and successes of those children and rejoice in their

accomplishments" ("Happiness Is Home Centered," *Ensign*, June 1978, p. 2). How much of the responsibility of creating a home where children want to be belongs to the father? \_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of things can a father do to help? \_\_\_\_\_

■ "What good is the big picture window and the lavish appointments and the priceless decor in a home if there is no mother there? The mother as a mother, not a breadwinner, is an essential figure in this battle against immorality and wickedness. I would also go back to the family where children were accountable and where father was the head of the family. Would you think me naive if I were to propose that this battle ultimately will be won on such simple grounds as the children coming in after school to homemade bread and jam with Mama there? Or on such grounds as Daddy and Mama taking their youngsters to sacrament meeting? Or that tender hug as they are put to bed and Daddy or Mama saying, 'We need you in this family. You are part of us, and no matter what your troubles are, you can come home'? Would you think me naive to believe that ultimately on the home ground, this battle will be won?" (Boyd K. Packer, address to Seminaries and Institutes faculty, 14 July 1958, pp. 6-7).

What can a husband do to create this kind of home? \_\_\_\_\_

If a man is married to a woman who is not doing her part to make home a heavenly place, how can he encourage her? \_\_\_\_\_

How could meeting together at a regular time each week to discuss ways of improving help the family solve this problem? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 The Two Shall Become One

■ Genesis 2:24; 5:1-2. What are the man and the woman to become? \_\_\_\_\_

Why were the man and the woman both called Adam? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can this ideal be achieved by every married couple? \_\_\_\_\_

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■ President Marion G. Romney said:

"[Husbands and wives] . . . should be one in harmony, respect, and mutual consideration. Neither should plan or follow an independent course of action. They should consult, pray, and decide together.

"In the management of their homes and families, husbands and wives should counsel with each other in kindness, love, patience, and understanding" ("In the Image of God," *Ensign*, March 1978, p. 2; compare Moses 5:12, first sentence of 16).

■ What are the husband and wife expected to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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In what spirit are they to do it? \_\_\_\_\_

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■ President Kimball said:

"There must be a great unselfishness, forgetting self and . . . subjugating self.

". . . There must be continued courting and expressions of affection, kindness, and consideration to keep love alive and growing.

". . . There must be a complete living of the commandments of the Lord as defined in the gospel of Jesus Christ" (1976 *Devotional Speeches of the Year* [Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1977], p. 147).

If all husbands and wives heeded this counsel, would marital unhappiness, misunderstandings, or divorces occur? How well are you applying this counsel in your own marriage? When was the last time you expressed your affection and appreciation to your wife? Has she done anything to make your life fulfilled? Have you told her so?

### Will It Make a Difference?

President Kimball issued this challenge: "And so we plead with you fathers to return to your little kingdoms and, with kindness, justice, proper discipline, and love, to inspire your family. We appeal to mothers to help create that happy family relationship. We desire that our people strengthen their families" (*Men of Example*, p. 5).

### Quorum Training Suggestions

This lesson may generate much discussion. Many members of the quorum may have strong feelings about the ideas discussed. It will be important for you to make sure that the quorum members understand the basic callings of men and women as given in the scriptures and as taught by modern prophets.

- To encourage individual study of the self-instruction materials, use questions such as these to begin the quorum discussion: How should a man treat his wife and his children? In what ways can a husband encourage his wife to magnify her calling as a wife and a mother? What must a husband and wife do to become one?
- Encourage quorum members to sit down with their wives during a quiet hour to study the self-instruction materials together.
- List on the chalkboard the many aspects of the callings of a man and a woman. Under the title *Man*, for example, you might list *husband, father, provider, and protector*. Under *Woman*, you might list *wife, mother, and homemaker*.
- Discuss the ways a righteous husband should preside over his family. Use D&C 38:27 and 121:41–44 in the discussion. Refer also to President Marion G. Romney, "In the Image of God" (*Ensign*, March 1978, pp. 2–4); and Elder Bruce R. McConkie, "Our Sisters from the Beginning" (*Ensign*, Jan 1979, pp. 61–63).
- Caution the quorum members to avoid judging their wives or their children and to develop an attitude of helpfulness and love. Use Matthew 7:1–5 and the following statements of President Harold B. Lee and Elder Marvin J. Ashton in your discussion. President Lee observed: "Someone has said that a

shoddy housekeeper is more often than not the evidence of an unsuccessful manager of her household. And may I add, so often is it the reflection of the kind of treatment she gets from her husband" ("Be Loyal to the Royal within You," *Speeches of the Year*, 1973 [Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1974], p. 92). Elder Ashton stated, "To the husband who says his wife is the poorest money manager in the world, I would say, 'Look in the mirror and meet the world's poorest teacher-trainer'" ("One for the Money," *Ensign*, July 1975, p. 73).

- Show the filmstrip *Father, Consider Your Ways* (OF090; 10 minutes).
- Use the posters "Why the Family?" (IP069 or IS069) and "The Goal: Family Exaltation" (IP079 or IS079).
- Consider this statement by President Kimball: "Let us create a climate in which we encourage the sisters of the Church to have a program of personal improvement. It ought to be a practical and realistic program . . . it ought to cause them to reach new levels of achievement . . . to find real self-fulfillment through wise self-development in the pursuit of righteous and worthy endeavors" ("Privileges and Responsibilities of Sisters," *Ensign*, Nov. 1978, p. 104). Ask such questions as these: "Why is it important for women to learn and achieve if they are to be effective wives and mothers? How can a husband encourage his wife to pursue a program of personal improvement?"
- Check recent conference issues of the *Ensign* (May and November) for current statements by the Brethren about male and female roles.

■ 1 Timothy 5:8. What does this verse say man is to do? Can a man neglect the responsibility to provide for his family which, or to his wife?

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your wife and your family

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