

Why do we **talk** so much about **marriage**? It's something I'm just **not interested** in.

“Everything we do should have celestial marriage as its focus and purpose”<sup>1</sup> because “marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and . . . the family is central to the Creator’s plan for [our] eternal destiny.”<sup>2</sup>

Marriage in the Father’s plan is not just about here and now but also the eternities. During this life, “God . . . has extended to us the privilege of our own family . . . to help us become more like Him.”<sup>3</sup>

Heavenly Father is an exalted being with an eternal family. He wants the same for us. It’s a major part of His plan for us. “A family built on the marriage of a man and woman supplies the best setting for God’s plan to thrive. . . . Such marriage . . . is as much a part of the plan of happiness as the Fall and the Atonement.”<sup>4</sup>

Now, not all are able to marry for eternity in this life. But all who are worthy have been promised the opportunity either here or in the next life. Pray to Heavenly Father about the role of eternal marriage in His plan for you. He will answer you through His Spirit. **NE**

#### NOTES

1. Henry B. Eyring, “Eternal Families,” *Ensign*, May 2016, 82.
2. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129; emphasis added.
3. M. Russell Ballard, “That the Lost May Be Found,” *Ensign*, May 2012, 100.
4. D. Todd Christofferson, “Why Marriage, Why Family,” *Ensign*, May 2015, 52.



As a young man, how do I **decide** whether to go on a **mission** right after turning **18** or to wait?

Your decision about when to leave on a mission may be based on a number of factors: school and/or career plans, military or civil-service obligations, finances, physical or emotional health, maturity, and so on. These are things you should talk about with your parents, your bishop, and other appropriate advisers.

You shouldn’t feel pressure to leave on your mission as soon as possible after turning 18. When President Thomas S. Monson introduced the change in the missionary eligibility age, he said: “I am not suggesting that all young men will—or should—serve at this earlier age. Rather, based on individual circumstances as well as upon a determination by priesthood leaders, this option is now available” (“Welcome to Conference,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 4–5). **NE**