



What should I say when my friends question our beliefs about marriage and family?

In “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles proclaimed that “marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children” (familyproclamation.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

This proclamation “is a statement of eternal truth” that came through a “revelatory process” and is not “just a statement of policy” (Dallin H. Oaks, “The Plan and the Proclamation,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2017, 30, 29). You can share your personal belief that this is so, and you can share the blessings these truths bring you.

In responding to others, we need to avoid being self-righteous or contentious. We should seek to love them. Those who are open and sincere deserve a sincere answer. But if it’s obvious that someone isn’t serious and just wants to mock or belittle your views, or if they just want to pick a fight, it’s best to avoid the discussion (see Matthew 7:6).

Responses are intended for help and perspective, not as official pronouncements of Church doctrine.

What Do You Think?

“How can I be positive around my friends who seem depressed?”

Submit your answer and, if desired, a high-resolution photograph by July 15, 2019, at liahona.ChurchofJesusChrist.org (click “Submit an Article or Feedback”).

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.