



Dear <First Name>,

Over the past few months, we have shared how Christian Family Care (CFC) is so much more than foster care and adoption. Today, we want to share with you the pillar of Preservation. This is the last of the four pillars – Prevention, Preparedness, Restoration, and Preservation – that fits into the puzzle of Christian Family Care's mission of strengthening families and serving at-risk kids in the name of Jesus Christ. If you missed it or are interested in reviewing all the pillars together, please visit our website at www.CFCare.org/Champions.



Preservation.

The term 'preservation' refers to keeping families intact. It means to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. It means keeping God's unique design of the family, modeling Christ's relationship with us, his children, from being destroyed.

At CFC, our vision of *every child loved* is a picture of the gospel and God's love for us, which was established in the family at creation. The reality is that in our time, what once defined the family has decayed.

In Russell Moore's book, *Onward, Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel* says, "If we care about families, rather than protecting families, then we will care about everything that pulls families apart." As Russell Moore points out, we talk about the rightness or wrongness of same-sex marriage, but when was the last time we heard anything about fornication, divorce, and remarriage. Our culture today sees children as an "expense" not a "blessing." ⁱ



John Harmon McElroy in his book *American Beliefs* when he describes recent “troubling signs of... cultural deterioration” in America, “family” and “community” are the first two keywords he uses. ⁱⁱ As G.K. Chesterton once explained, “this institution of the home is the one anarchist institution.” It is “older than law,” it is the true “province of liberty,” and it is “the only check on the state that is bound to renew itself as eternally as the state, and more naturally than the state.” ⁱⁱⁱ

Historian and advocate for families Allan Carlson noted in his book, *The American Way*, that in 1984, President Ronald Regan noted that throughout American history, “we’ve relied on the family as the principle institution for transmitting values.” But the American family has now become “very different from what it was. Many families are headed by a single parent, families are smaller, not only fewer children but with fewer generations living together.”

In 1988, President Ronald Regan told the Student Congress on Evangelism, “The family provides children with a haven of love and concern. ...For parents, it provides a sense of purpose and meaning in life. When the family is strong, the Nation is strong. When the family is weak, the Nation is weak.” ^{iv} In another speech he went on to say, “It is the power of the family that holds the Nation together, that gives America her conscience, and that serves as the cradle of our country’s soul.” ^v

We are constantly adopting a “new normal” of the family, and the pressures continue upon us today to redefine the family. We can’t! We need to preserve the family if we want any hope for the future welfare of our children and society.

As Christians, we need to provide an alternative vision of a flourishing family. A vision aligned with scripture, providing a haven of love for our children, and leads all people to relate to our God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name (Ephesians 3:14-19).

Whatever the cost of cultural acceptance, Christian Family Care believes preserving the family is an important pillar to be retained for the welfare of every child and society. After all, the family is the foundation of God’s design for humanity.

What are we doing?

- ***Advocating for children to be raised by a mother and father:***

- o When we place a child in a home for adoption or foster care, we intentionally look for two-parent families, to preserve for that child that natural family structure.

- o When a child is in a single-parent family, we intentionally wrap supports around the single parent so that the child and single parent have the support of both a male and female.
- o When serving community families, we engage them with families to help mentor and show them a picture of an intact married family.
- o As we engage in government policies, we emphasize the importance of two-parent families for the welfare of children and society.

• **Family Empowerment Services**

- o When a community family is in crisis, we provide wrap-around services through our Strong Families for Children program providing temporary respite care for children, counseling, family coaching, and support for parents to stabilize a home and keep a family intact.
- o When an unplanned pregnancy occurs, we help parents choose life for their child, and help the parents develop a life plan to parent a child. When adoption becomes an alternative to parents, our open adoption process helps to keep that relationship between the birth mother and her child intact throughout the child's life.
- o Trauma, anxiety, and depression are disrupters of individual and family health. Our professional counseling team, Arizona Family Counseling, helps to restore health and keep families intact.

What we hope to accomplish?

We aim to preserve a society where children and families are celebrated. Where mothers and fathers, joined together in marriage, are both valued for their unique and vital contributions in nurturing children to become healthy adults, in the image of our God and Father. To keep families intact. To stop the cultural deterioration of the family and preserve the family so every child is loved and nurtured in a Christ-centered family, where biblical values are taught, and all members of the family thrive.

How you can help engage with us:

- Ask God to increase our witness and influence in advocating for children and families in the community; and wisdom in communicating truth in love.
- Use your influence to advocate for marriage and two-parent families.
- Learn how to help others who have experienced adverse childhood experiences by taking a class from our Family Care Learning platform.

- Consider becoming a mentor, coach, or host family of our Strong Families for Children program, to help a parent in crisis keep a family intact.
- Foster/Adopt or encourage another couple.

Our prayer as we have shared these four pillars of Prevention, Preparedness, Restoration, and Preservation is that you now have a greater understanding of the impact the stewardship of your resources (both time and treasure), is having on improving the welfare of our children and society. We hope that God is moving in your heart to grow your commitment to engage with us as a champion for families and children, leading to a transformed and flourishing Arizona.

Best regards,



Mark Upton
President/CEO

Visit CFCare.org/Champions
or scan QR with your phone here.



ⁱ Russell Moore, "Onward – Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel," Chapter Family Stability, 183

ⁱⁱ Allan Carlson, "The American Way – Family and Community in the Shaping of the American Identity," 168

ⁱⁱⁱ Allan Carlson, "The American Way – Family and Community in the Shaping of the American Identity," 168 quoting G.K. Chesterton, "What's Wrong with the World," and "The Superstition of Divorce," in *Collected Works*, vol IV (San Francisco Ignatius Press, 1987), 67, 256

^{iv} Ronald Reagan, "Remarks to the Student Congress on Evangelism, July 28, 1988," in *Papers: Reagan, 1988-89*, 992

^v Ronald Reagan, "Remarks at a Luncheon with Community Leaders in Chicago, Illinois, September 30, 1988," in *Papers: Reagan, 1988-89*, 1252



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