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Family Values

Every president and sitting congress I have been witness to in the last 25 years has claimed to be for promoting family values in the United States. I'd venture to say that this has been the case for all of our past presidents and congressmen over the history of our country. But what does it really mean to promote family values and how can we measure the government policies true impact on family life? I'd like to offer some ways to determine how effective our government is performing and promoting this cause, but first let's discuss what family values are to begin with.

The family is the basic building block of all civilization and societies in the world. A father, mother and their offspring are naturally tied together as a family unit to promulgate the human species, pass on learned wisdom and to care for and nurture each other. In the earliest times families began to come together to help each other in carrying out this task in an orderly fashion. This provided for gaining more wisdom, common protection, sharing resources and also promoted job specialization skills. Individuals learned that they are responsible to their other family members, but also responsible to the other families in the group. This sense of responsibility is one of the first family values established and remains as important now as it did then. Groups of families could work together to master the resources around them, explore their world and practice their religious beliefs. Living, working and worshipping together leads to a moral and ethical system of how to live one's life and be a member of society at large. With guidance from our Creator we are free to be creative and enjoy life while living within His inspired morality system.

So to encumber such basic necessities of life would not be an effective way of promoting family values for any governmental system. How does our federal government measure up to this task? First off, the very fruits of our labor as individuals are used to provide for our families and carry out the responsibilities we have to our families. This makes taxation a very important tool to promote or attack the modern family. By providing tax breaks, credits or deductions for being married and / or having children, the government could further promote and encourage family growth. The problem is that there have traditionally been penalties for being married such as forcing couples to file in a manner that cost them more money than if they remained single. The so-called marriage penalty found some relief this decade, but most of those corrections will expire in 2011. Additionally the increased tax credits and deductions for having children will also be largely scaled back at the same time.

With our current federal Department of Education there are many requirements mandated to the states. This takes a lot of the control and choice for how to educate students in different states away from the local education authorities. This may be intended to ensure certain educational standards, but it also takes away from the variety of knowledge once given to students in different geographic communities around the country. Teaching our children the values and skills needed for the lifestyles they are likely to face should not be interfered with by an oppressive federal agency. I also recall reciting the pledge of allegiance at school each day, but most small school districts that did so in the past have now bowed to the courts and federal pressure to no longer do so. I fail to see how we are promoting family values in passing learned wisdom onto our children when the government interferes so much.



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I admit that the government does have some programs and policies that help families, encourage adoption, help provide early and continuing education and provide short term assistance during hardship times. The availability of these and similar programs when properly and efficiently ran help provide families relief when needed, but differ greatly from the agencies that force their agendas upon the American families as a whole without their choice.

The United States was founded as a Christian nation with values derived from biblical principles and morality from our God. Most of the early colonists had left the European countries to seek religious freedom, but were still Christians just wishing to practice their faith in a different way. This made for a common cause and direction for the citizens of this country, but that cause seems to be diminishing as we turn our backs on these fundamental beliefs our nation was founded upon. Promoting a common language, a melting pot atmosphere and the common morality instilled within our laws and legal code will keep us a strong nation and promote good family values.

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