



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

July 11, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

A couple of days ago I sent out a DMC Newsletter about women in Odd Fellows. One of our long-time DMC members, Brother Robin Oliver, has penned some insightful thoughts on the subject - including a couple of very provocative video clips - which I think you will find interesting.

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Dave Rosenberg, GW

Hi Dave,

The reason that "for some, this may be a sensitive subject" is that, indeed, almost any significant changes to social roles and relationships can be a sensitive subject. But I believe it is a subject that should be taken on -- here and now -- by Odd Fellowship...

Among the many different types of people in life, there are some who relish any change at any time and all the new opportunities these changes can bring. And, of course, there are others who believe that some things do not need to change and that, in those things that must change, such change should be controlled carefully to ensure that it goes in the right direction. Most of us are somewhere between these two extreme views of change...

The roles and the responsibilities of both men and women in our society have changed dramatically in the past 50 years. For anyone who has any doubts about this, watch this and pay particular attention to what men did and what women did 60 years ago...

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Jqe4W08124M&vq=medium

If we go back far enough, we can easily find the historical evidence of a separation and distinction between the genders in terms of who they should be and what they should do. Even today, there are obvious signs of this in the world's traditional societies in which the roles of education, career, home, community, and practicing faith are starkly different for men and for



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women. The social changes coming from outside of these traditional societies bring significant pressure on gender roles and responsibilities, and the results are mixed at best. And we find them reported daily both in tragic and triumphant terms...

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/13/world/malala-gordon-brown/?hpt=hp_c1

The roles and responsibilities of a modern urban or suburban family are likely to be less separated. It is not unusual for mom or dad or child to be working in almost any kind of job. Or to be a student on the side or full time. Or to be in the kitchen making dinner or picking up the take-out. Or to be committed to a sport or a personal outside interest...

We hear a lot about the "breakdown" of the family. But the "breakdown" does not come from change. Rather, it comes from neglect. The question is whether there is sufficient time in all this personal activity for quality time with family and close friends in the community. And that can be a big part of the magic of Odd Fellowship...

It is fine that we want to bring women into the Lodge... But what we really ought want to do is bring families into the Lodge to learn the ways of Odd Fellowship...

FL&T...

Robin Oliver