

Part 3, Paper 84, Marriage and...Family Life, Chief of Seraphim

📅 Thu, Oct 03, 2024 10:52AM 🕒 11:07

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Urantia Book, early humans, mother family, survival needs, practical relationships, power shift, agriculture impact, women's roles, Industrial Revolution, technology impact, gender differences, self-gratification, family dynamics, historical perspective, future of marriage

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

S Sarah 00:00

Hey, everyone ready to explore something really interesting? Today, we're taking a deep dive into marriage and family. We all think we know what that's about, but we're looking at it through a unique lens, the Urantia Book, and let me tell you, it's gonna challenge some of our biggest assumptions. It really does offer a fresh perspective. It really does so to help us unpack some of these Urantia Book insights. We have an expert with us. They're going to shed some light on early humans and how they formed families, ready to rethink what you thought you knew about marriage. Absolutely,

J John 00:31

what I find fascinating is how the Urantia Book really flips the script on how we view our ancestors like take the idea that early humans understood the connection between sex and having children. Wait,

S Sarah 00:43

are you saying they didn't like they didn't understand at all. The book seems to

J John 00:47

suggest they didn't. They had other theories, and some were pretty out there, out there. How? Give us an example? Well, for example, some believe that pregnancy was caused by spirits just breathing, or even get this too much sunlight, sunlight.



Sarah 00:59

Wow, that's a new one, okay. But seriously, if they weren't driven by romance, what brought those early couples together? Survival,



John 01:06

pure and simple, Life was tough back then, especially for women. They relied on men for protection, whether from wild animals, other tribes, you name it. And once they had children, having a partner who could help provide food was crucial. So



Sarah 01:20

forget romantic dinners by the fire. It was more like, can you hunt? You're Hired pretty



John 01:25

much. The Urantia Book emphasizes that it was these practical needs, not necessarily love, that drove those early relationships. And here's where things get really interesting. The book describes this family structure most of us haven't even heard of the mother family.



Sarah 01:41

Mother family. Okay, You've piqued my interest. Break that down for us. So imagine



John 01:45

this, because paternity wasn't always clear back then. Family lineage was traced through the mother's side. That meant that her male relatives, her brothers, her uncles, they held a lot of power, sometimes even more power than the husband. Wait,



Sarah 02:00

really more powerful than the husband. How did that work? Exactly? Imagine a



John 02:04

family group where the mother's brothers have a big say in decisions, even about the children. The husband's part of the family, for sure, but his authority might be less than the mother's relatives. Wow,



S

Sarah 02:15

that's almost the complete opposite of how many societies are structured now. But if that was the norm for so long. How did we shift from these mother families to the Father centered families we see more often today? Well,

J

John 02:26

the Urantia Book points to a massive shift, and that was the rise of herding in agriculture. Ah, the dawn of farming. Exactly. Suddenly, men with the primary food providers, they control these valuable

S

Sarah 02:38

resources, and with resources comes power right? Precisely

J

John 02:41

that shifting control led to a power shift within families and entire communities. So

S

Sarah 02:46

it wasn't just about who was bringing home the bacon, but who's controlling the whole farm. It's fascinating to think about how those early economic changes shaped family dynamics.

J

John 02:56

It really is. It reminds us that what we might consider traditional family structures haven't always been the norm. They've evolved over time, shaped by forces like economics, technology, even societal values. And speaking of which, this shift to agriculture, well, it wasn't all sunshine and roses for women, even with this new focus on fathers, okay,

S

Sarah 03:15

I knew there had to be a catch. Tell me more. So we've gone from spirits and sunshine causing babies to men being in charge because of farming. It's quite a journey through history, but how did this shift to Father families impact women? Doesn't sound like it was good for everyone.

J

John 03:32

It's a complicated story. While men gained authority within families, the Urantia Book suggests that women actually ended up shouldering more responsibility.

S

Sarah 03:42

Wait, more responsibility. You're saying, even though men were in charge of agriculture, women had it even tougher. How does that work?

J

John 03:49

Imagine this. Men were out hunting or maybe off fighting or managing the fields, right? But women were still the primary caregivers for the children, taking care of the home and gathering food too. And then, on top of all of that, they often ended up doing a lot of the really difficult work in the fields with their husbands,

S

Sarah 04:04

so much for a nice, relaxing life after men discovered farming, not

J

John 04:08

quite but here's a really interesting perspective that the book offers. It suggests that for some women, even though it meant more work overall, the rise of agriculture actually brought a different kind of freedom. Okay,

S

Sarah 04:21

now I'm really curious, how could having more responsibility be freeing? It seems like the opposite. Think

J

John 04:27

of it this way. Before agriculture, women were limited in terms of focusing on specific skills, everyone had to be involved in getting food right, which could be a really demanding and mobile activity, but agriculture allowed for more settled communities, and with that came specialized roles. Women could potentially really focus on specific skills and crafts within these communities. That's an angle

S

Sarah 04:50

I hadn't thought of. It's like, instead of everyone searching for food all the time, now you have some stability. And someone could say, I'm really good at weaving, so that's what I'm gonna do exactly.

J

John 04:58

 John 05:09

Now. Of course, this doesn't erase the very real difficulties and inequalities women still faced, but it adds some complexity to the picture, and it reminds us that progress isn't always a straight line.

 Sarah 05:11

Definitely makes you think about those big historical turning points differently. It's not always just winners and losers. It's about how everything shifts and changes, often in complex ways. But if agriculture was such a big turning point, what did the Urantia Book say about the Industrial Revolution? That seems like another one of those massive changes in how humans live and work.

 John 05:32

You're absolutely right. The Industrial Revolution was another huge turning point, and the Urantia Book emphasizes something really important that happened then, for maybe the first time in a very long time, physical strength, which had always given men an advantage, became less important, because

 Sarah 05:47

machines started doing the heavy lifting right

 John 05:49

precisely. And as technology got more advanced, it created new opportunities for women to join the workforce in jobs that they couldn't have done before the playing field started to level out, not just because of social movements or anything like that, but because of steam engines in factories. That's

 Sarah 06:04

incredible. It's like these technological advancements accidentally started a social revolution. Who knew that something like the invention of the sewing machine could be so revolutionary, and not just for fashion, but for women's role in society as a whole?

 John 06:18

It really is a powerful example of how progress can appear in unexpected ways, and that technological change often goes hand in hand with social change. Speaking of change, the Urantia Book definitely doesn't shy away from the most fundamental human relationships, either, the dynamics between men and women. Okay,

S

Sarah 06:35

so we've covered early humans, changing power dynamics and the Industrial Revolution. What does the Urantia Book say about the whole men are from Mars, Women are from Venus thing? Well,

J

John 06:47

it acknowledges that men women are fundamentally different. There are two variations on a theme, each with their own strengths and weaknesses. But here's the really interesting part, it doesn't see these differences as a problem. So

S

Sarah 06:59

it's not a battle between the sexes, but more like a partnership. Exactly.

J

John 07:03

The Urantia Book suggests that these inherent differences are actually what make humans so successful as a species. This interplay of different approaches to solving problems, communication, expressing emotions, that's what drives progress and creativity. It's about harmony and balance between those energies. That's

S

Sarah 07:19

a refreshing perspective. It's not that one is better. It's about recognizing the value of those differences and how they work together. Makes you think that maybe men and women aren't from different planets after all, or maybe we are, but they're in the same solar system. Yeah, that's a great way to put it. But here's something I've been thinking about with all this talk about self discovery and personal fulfillment, and let's be honest, instant gratification. Huron, what does the Urantia Book say about how that's impacting families today? Because it seems like we're pretty far removed from those early humans focused on just surviving. It's

J

John 07:55

a great question, and it's something the Urantia Book is actually pretty concerned about. It warns about what happens with too much self gratification and how it can really damage the core of family and, by extension, society itself.

S

Sarah 08:09

So instead of till death do us part, it's more like as long as we're both happy and having fun.

J John 08:14

That might be simplifying things a bit, but you're getting at the heart of the issue. The Urantia Book says that when we make personal pleasure and fulfillment the most important things, it can really mess up our priorities, then it becomes much harder to keep those long term commitments that a stable society is built on. That's

S Sarah 08:32

really interesting. So you're saying that if we're constantly trying to be happy, it could actually be the thing that makes us unhappy. It's almost like we're always running towards happiness, but it feels like the faster we run, the further away it gets.

J John 08:44

It really is a paradox, isn't it? And that's something the Urantia Book really dives into. It reminds us that true fulfillment, real happiness, it often comes from finding that balance between what we want and the responsibilities we have to other people, to our families, our communities and even future generations.

S Sarah 09:03

So it's not about saying no to pleasure or happiness, but about understanding those things can't be the only goal. They're not the finish line. Exactly. It's

J John 09:10

about finding that middle ground where being personally fulfilled connects with something bigger than just us. And that idea, it feels even more relevant when you think about how much our view of marriage and family has changed even in recent times.

S Sarah 09:22

That's true. It's not just about survival or basic needs anymore. It's about having the freedom to choose about love and compatibility and finding meaning in those relationships. So where do we go from here? What does the future hold for marriage and family in this world of self discovery and instant gratification,

J John 09:42

that's the big question, isn't it? I mean, the Urantia Book, it doesn't have all the answers. It's not a crystal ball or anything, yeah, but it definitely gives us some interesting things to think about, like, if we're always focused on our own happiness, our own needs, it can create

distance in those relationships that need us to compromise, to put someone else first. First,

S

Sarah 10:00

it's like we need to find balance again, just like those early humans had to find balance with the world around them. That's a great way

J

John 10:05

to put it. We need to remember how important community is, how important commitment is, and understand that sometimes the most fulfilling thing we can do is give to others, not just focus on what we're getting. Well, this

S

Sarah 10:16

whole deep dive has really made me think we've covered so much history, from those first families trying to survive to modern couples dealing with a world of choices and temptations. It's been quite a journey.

J

John 10:28

It really has. It's amazing to look back at how these really important institutions, marriage and family, have transformed over time, shaped by everything from basic needs to new technologies. It gives you a whole new perspective on where we are today. It really

S

Sarah 10:43

does. And to everyone listening, we want to hear from you. What do you think about all of this? What does the future hold for marriage and family? Do the urentio books insights resonate with you, or do you see things differently? Share your thoughts with us. Join the conversation. Let's keep exploring these ideas together. That's it for our deep dive today. Thanks for coming on this journey with us, and until next time, stay curious. Bye.