



# Organization Platform

March 30, 2024

## **Table of Contents**

1. Our Vision and Mission
2. Our Doctrinal Position
3. The Christian's Role in Government
4. Protecting Human Life
5. Promoting Strong Families
6. Preserving Religious Liberty
7. Pursuing Justice and Mercy
8. Proclaiming God's Design for Sex and Sexuality
9. Practicing Peaceful Activism

## 1. Our Vision and Mission

New York Families Foundation envisions a future in which God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished in the state of New York.

The mission of New York Families is to educate, encourage, and equip New Yorkers of faith to courageously stand for life, family, and freedom.

Founded in 1990, New York Families Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt Christian charity. Our platform communicates our beliefs about Christianity and public policy and forms the basis of our educational outreach efforts. We welcome all New Yorkers who share our goals to find common cause with us as we work to bring about a brighter future for all of New York's families.

## 2. Our Doctrinal Position

**"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV)**

The Bible teaches us that our Creator and Designer is one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The center of the biblical text is the gospel of Jesus Christ, which tells us that Jesus was both fully human like us and completely divine like God the Father. Jesus suffered all that mankind suffers in life, yet was blameless. He taught, ministered, and ultimately sacrificed Himself to repair humanity's broken relationship with God. Without Christ's death on the Cross, mankind would be forever distant from God because of the reality of sin. New York Families believes in a literal Jesus who rose from death three days after His crucifixion and is now with his Father in heaven, advocating for humanity from a place of genuine understanding. Today, Jesus is preparing the Church—through the Holy Spirit He sent to His followers—for His world-changing return.

New York Families believes the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. We believe that every person is sinful by nature, and is condemned because of his sin unless he is born again by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

### 3. The Christian's Role in Government

**“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16, ESV)**

When Jesus calls Christians to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, He means that we should have a godly impact on the world around us. Followers of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century state of New York are called to invite others to place their faith in Him and to speak Biblical truth about issues of law and policy that arise in our society. We are called to display loving, joyful attitudes as we do these things. New York Families helps Christians to influence hearts and minds from a Biblically-based Christian perspective, both inside and outside the halls of government.

To be salt and light to the world, Christians must hold fast to God's Word. God keeps His truth alive in the Church today through the work of the Holy Spirit and through faithful adherence to the Bible.

### 4. Protecting Human Life

**“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27, ESV)**

**“Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?’. And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.’” (Genesis 4:9-10, ESV)**

The human right to life is a fundamental principle. Without it, the entire American experiment would fall apart. The signers of the Declaration of Independence bravely pledged

their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the proposition that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

However, the right to life does not find its origins within the Declaration of Independence; rather, the right to life originates from the Bible, and specifically from the Sixth Commandment—“Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13). The Bible teaches that all human beings are made in the image of God, and that human life, like God’s image, is sacred. Accordingly, New York Families affirms the sanctity of innocent human life, embracing the Bible’s teaching that all human life has inherent value and worth.

New York Families believes that one day, New York law will protect every innocent human life from conception until natural death. We will continue our life-affirming educational endeavors until that vision becomes a reality.

## **5. Promoting Strong Families**

**“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:4-6, ESV)**

**“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, ESV)**

It is ideal for a child to be raised in an intact family unit by his or her own mother and father. Parents are uniquely called to be their children’s caretakers, protectors, and guides, teaching them how to navigate the world. New York Families works to uphold this biblical vision for family and parenthood in New York.

American culture has devalued marriage and family, and the results are devastating. In 2019, a Pew Research Center study of 130 nations and territories found that 23% of American children were living with single parents. This is the highest percentage of single-parent households in the world. While some single parents do an excellent job raising their children in difficult circumstances, broken family structures are a key driver of many of America’s social problems. In comparison with other American children, fatherless children

are five times more likely to grow up in poverty, nine times more likely to drop out of school, and twenty times more likely to spend time in prison.

On average, children who grow up in intact families are likely to be healthier, better educated, more affluent, and less involved in substance abuse or criminality than children who do not. Tragically, however, fewer and fewer American children are raised in intact families of origin. New York Families seeks to restore a marriage-affirming culture. New York Families also promotes adoption as a life-affirming alternative for orphaned children and children whose parents are otherwise unavailable to raise them.

As the principal caretakers, protectors, and guides of their children, parents have the God-given right to direct their children's upbringing. Across America and in New York, government has become far too comfortable infringing upon that God-given right. Although New York Families affirms that God instituted governing authorities for our good and that He commands Christians to submit to those authorities (Romans 13:1), we speak out when government oversteps its boundaries. One example of government encroachment upon parental rights is New York's public education system, where schools are being used to promote radical perspectives without parental approval.

## **6. Preserving Religious Liberty**

**“[Jesus] said to them, ‘Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.’” (Luke 20:25, ESV)**

**“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17, ESV)**

Religious liberty has been described as Americans' “first freedom.” It is no coincidence that the Framers of the Constitution chose to place the Free Exercise Clause and its guarantee of religious liberty into the very first of the 10 constitutional amendments contained within the Bill of Rights. New York Families supports all New Yorkers' rights to practice their faith, to speak about their faith, and to live out their faith without undue government intrusion.

The Center for Religion, Culture and Democracy, which studies state laws protecting religious freedom, confirms that New York is the worst state in the nation in terms of respect for religious liberty. Far too often, New York government has treated religious liberty and

freedom of conscience as barriers best approached at full speed and barreled over. New York Families equips New Yorkers to stand for their God-given, constitutionally-protected right to the free exercise of religion.

## **7. Pursuing Justice and Mercy**

**“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8, ESV)**

Christians are called to seek freedom and justice for those who experience oppression. New York Families affirms that Christians should be characterized by mercy and love toward our neighbors, concern and care for the needy, and protection of the vulnerable. Christians should consider others more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

To us, proclaiming justice means helping New Yorkers to push for the eradication of human trafficking, for educational choice, and for an ethical and transparent government. Proclaiming mercy means equipping New Yorkers to oppose state-sponsored gambling, prostitution, drug legalization, and the promotion of confusion in regard to sex and gender identity.

## **8. Proclaiming God’s Design for Sex and Sexuality**

**“[Love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.” (1 Corinthians 13:6, ESV)**

There is great confusion and disagreement within American culture (and, sadly, within the American church) on issues of sexuality and gender identity. New York Families defends God’s truth about these important matters.

God ordained marriage as the union of husband and wife (Genesis 2:18-24), and He created sexual intercourse and called it good (Genesis 1:28, 31). However, sex is only good when it is placed within its proper context; outside that context, it is destructive (2 Samuel 11:1-12:14; Proverbs 5; Revelation 21:8). Sexual expression should only occur within the marital relationship between husband and wife (Genesis 2:24-25; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4). Married men and women are called upon by God to remain faithful to their

respective spouses (Exodus 20:14), and persons who are not married are called to abstain from sexual behavior (I Corinthians 6:18-20).

Some people experience a phenomenon known as same-sex (homosexual) attraction. Such persons feel sexual or romantic attraction to members of the same sex. Tragically, in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century United States, homosexuality is celebrated as a positive good, and persons experiencing same-sex attraction are encouraged to adopt lesbian, gay, or bisexual identities. While most people do not experience sexual orientation as a matter of choice, sexual behavior is a matter of choice. God loves persons who experience same-sex attraction, and He clearly and unequivocally forbids His children from engaging in homosexual relationships and behaviors (Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-11).

A person's sex is an innate and immutable characteristic; God made humankind male and female (Genesis 1:27). Maleness and femaleness are not biological accidents, personal choices, or social constructs; rather, they are integral, God-given parts of a person's identity designed for that person's good.

Some people experience a condition known as gender dysphoria in which they feel great discomfort with their biological sex and feel a desire to dress or identify as a member of the opposite sex, or as someone who is genderless or gender-fluid. In 21<sup>st</sup>-century secular culture, gender dysphoria is celebrated and transgenderism is promoted. Journalist Madeleine Kearns has defined transgenderism as the belief that "every person has a 'gender identity' (an inner sense of being male, female, something else, or in between) distinct from his or her sex and that, when the two conflict, gender identity should take precedence." Persons with gender dysphoria who embrace transgenderism sometimes use hormones or surgeries to make their bodies more like the bodies of persons of the opposite sex. However, it is biologically impossible for a person to truly change his or her sex. Furthermore, the Bible expresses God's disapproval of actions that blur the distinction between male and female (Deuteronomy 22:5).

Young people experiencing same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria need love and compassion. Parental rejection and unsafe home environments can be devastating to young people, including youths with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria. Loving a child does not require a parent to affirm that child's adoption of an LGBT identity or approve of his choices. Similarly, it does not require a parent to allow illegal, immoral, or disruptive behavior in the home. New York Families humbly encourages Christian parents not to react



to a child's struggles with sexuality or gender out of anger, but to love that child, speak the truth, and seek godly counsel.

Persons with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria are made in God's image, are deeply loved by Him, and should be treated with dignity and respect. Christians have not consistently treated persons with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria the way that we would wish to be treated. Over the years, our failures in this regard have caused pain to our neighbors who have these experiences. In some instances, our reactions to persons with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria have unintentionally encouraged them to embrace LGBT identities.

Persons experiencing same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria should be encouraged to pursue holiness. Some churches have welcomed and affirmed persons identifying as LGBT without speaking Biblical truth to them (thus displaying grace without truth). Other churches have spoken the truth about sexuality and gender in a harsh or punitive manner (thus displaying truth without grace). God's people are called upon to display both grace and truth (1 Corinthians 13:4-6) to persons experiencing same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria. Instead of being encouraged to act upon homosexual urges, persons with same-sex attraction should be lovingly helped to resolve those attractions so that they may live chaste lives as single individuals or develop their heterosexual potential within the God-ordained marriage relationship. Rather than embracing dangerous fallacies about their gender identities, persons with gender dysphoria should receive help in dismantling false beliefs about themselves so that they may be at peace with their true, God-given gender identities.

## **9. Practicing Peaceful Activism**

**“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.” (Luke 6:27b-29, 31, ESV)**

**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” — The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Following the commands of Christ, New York Families expects each of our employees, volunteers, supporters, and participants to abide by the following principles of nonviolence in connection with all of New York Families' activities:

- Uphold the sanctity of innocent human life.
- Show Christian charity toward all persons and groups with whom we interact, even when we disagree with them.
- Respect those in authority (Romans 13:1).
- Recognize that hatred is not an option.
- Use only nonviolent means, including prayer, education, and negotiation, to work toward our goals.
- Refrain from using slurs, foul language, slander, or false accusations against any person or group of people.
- Refrain from retaliating or using violence against anyone—including those who may inflict violence or verbal abuse upon us—unless force is necessary to defend ourselves or someone else from bodily harm.
- Oppose unlawful acts of violence against anyone, including acts of violence committed against abortion providers or abortion advocates and acts of violence committed against persons involved in same-sex relationships or behaviors and/or transgendered behavior.