

Good morning everyone.

I'd like to welcome you here. So you won't forget who I am, I'd like to tell you a little story about myself. I have 16 grandchildren and one day, one of them was sitting on my lap, and she asked me a very deep question. She said, "grandpa, were you ever cute?" So if you don't remember anything else, remember that I am the man that was never cute. I am half Hopi and half Navajo Indian, born and raised on the Indian reservation, with that in mind, I would like to extend a special and warm welcome to everyone who are here from different countries to our Native homeland of the Indigenous people of the United States of America. I want to say this, a couple of things, we really promote the importance of family. In fact we say this, the heart of Native American culture and who we are, is not the songs, not the dress, and it's not the food. All those are beautiful, but the heart of who we are is family. What do we have to do to strengthen our families and keep them together? For example, if I really want to destroy you, I don't destroy your job, or your home, I destroy your family. And when I destroy your family, I got you. We need to do whatever we can to ensure our family stays strong and in-tact. We spend a lot of time strengthening the role of both father and mother. Of both manhood and fatherhood, and also of womanhood and motherhood.

These are all different concepts, but they all relate closely to each other. Unfortunately, our Native people have a lot of issues with domestic violence on the reservations. We have high mortality rates, school drop-outs, teen pregnancy and higher substance abuse rates than any other group in the country. We work with the men and say, you have to understand something about the women, they're the greatest creation of the Creator. Understand that. They learn to value and appreciate womanhood. The strongest thing on this Earth is the tender heart of a loving and caring mother. When we have proposed that message to our fathers, they really understand it, they have got the message. Native people believe in a lot of sacred things, such as mountains, rivers, canyons, and burial grounds, they understand that the most sacred things on this earth is our role as a father and our role as a mother. They are easier to work with, they are self-motivated to change their lives.

So our program is called Fatherhood Is Sacred™/ Motherhood Is Sacred™. We teach the men and women the importance of two driving principles in life. One is work, the other is learning. I'm going to spend more time on learning. What do we learn. We want our fathers and mothers to learn the real truth. Because if you don't know what is truth, you will never learn. We want our fathers and mothers to have a real desire to learn what truth is. For example if you were taught that $2+2=3$ and $3+3=5$, you will never be a mathematician, you will never be a business person, and you will never be an accountant. You have limited yourself. I tell my native brothers and sisters, you have to think outside of the box, because sometimes religions, traditions, and science can teach you things that are wrong. For an example, for centuries people were taught that the world is flat and they believed it. Our people believed that by looking at the sun and the moon that maybe the world is really not flat, but maybe it is round. So we tell our fathers and mothers to learn the truth about their own traditions, their own ways of doing things. Now, another thing is that if I want to control you, I limit what you learn. If I am going to dominate you, I cut off learning all together. So, we have really done some wonderful things with our fathers, mothers, and families. These are some things that prevent you from leaning. Fear, if you have a lot of fear in your system and in your mind, you will not learn. Chaos, sometimes our communities are filled with gossip, rumors and lies. A lot of chaos. When there is chaos you don't learn very well either. Another one is loneliness. When you feel alone, you do not feel connected to anybody. You can be with friends and family and still feel all alone. How do we do that, how do we strengthen the people so they can feel connected? Another thing to look at is poor attitude. And some people have a very poor attitude and they wonder what the problem is. I am sorry to tell you but you are part of the problem because

you have a poor attitude. One of the ways you learn is by having a good attitude. We work with the fathers and mothers on that. We work on your self-worth. And that is the big key right there. Every major decision you make in your life is directly linked to your self-worth. Thank you for your time.