

Family Affair II

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Introduction.

A. A man was traveling and needed to get off his train in Pittsburgh. Being a deep sleeper he paid a porter \$50 to wake him and get him off the train. The next day he arrived in Cincinnati and railed against the porter. Another man remarked that he had never seen a man as angry as that man, to which the porter replied, "You should have seen the man I put off the train in Pittsburgh."

B. I want to recommend a few books,

1. One by Tim Hansel called *When I relax I feel Guilty*.
2. Another by Gene Hendricks *Afternoon for Women at the Heart of Life*.

C. Navigators are my kind of people.

1. My invitations to speak here are either calls from God or temptations.
2. It has been my delight to spend these days with you.

D. This morning we focused in the marriage; tonight we want to focus on the family.

1. No nation has ever survived the disintegration of the family.
2. Raising a family is like walking on a tight rope; if we fail to prepare the family for the challenges of life there is no second chance.
3. A Chinese proverb says one cannot determine the success of parenting until the children become parents.
4. This is similar to discipleship because true disciples make other disciples.
5. Some basic principles related to the family are important even if you are beyond the parenting stage of life.
 - a. A great opportunity in America today is tapping into the middle age group.
 - b. Young people today are looking for older mentors.
 - c. Older people have learned from their failures and need to pass this wisdom on to the young.
 - d. Young men need an older Christian man to help them; young women need older Christian women to help them.
 - e. Many believers today have not come from Christian homes and need a mentor.

I. Principles of family life.

A. Give the home a higher priority.

1. Your call to be a professional is not in conflict with your call to be a spouse or parent.
2. A businessman taught me this telling me he had spent his life climbing the ladder of success only to discover years later that his ladder was leaning on the wrong wall.
3. It is a challenge to find people over 50 that are truly fulfilled.
4. They often have tried many paths that have all been dead end streets.
5. A man I know lost his wife to suicide and his four kids are lost to drugs or prostitution or some other perversion, yet he succeeded in business.
6. Successful people are often gifted yet at home they are failures.
7. They are successful in business yet failure at home drives them to spend more time at work, leading to more failure at home.
8. Scripture says to seek first the kingdom of God and all other things will be added to us. (Matthew 6:33)
 - a. God never made us to be satisfied with things.
 - b. He made us to be satisfied with himself.
 - c. Young people need to understand the importance of the marriage.
 - d. Young people can learn from the failures of older couples.
 - e. I came out of a broken home and my wife came from a good Christian home.
 - f. I emulated a seminary professor who told me he lost his family in becoming a scholar.
 - g. That experience changed my perspective on ministry and family.

B. House clean your attitude.

1. Attitude is more lethal than action.
 - a. Some parents take kids to church but with a bitter attitude and kids see this.
 - b. Hostile, bitter, angry people don't make disciples.
 - c. We need to get rid of all bitterness, rage, slander and all malice. (Ephesians 4:31)
 1. I would give anything to extract all bitterness out of you.

2. Parents who complain of having done the right things yet seeing troubled kids need to examine their attitudes.

f. We are to be kind and compassionate to each other. (Ephesians 4:32)

1. Do you give your kids the freedom to fail?

2. Is your home a forgiving center?

3. A friend is bitter against the government, against God, against the church, and against himself.

4. When I told him he was an angry person he got angry.

5. We need to renew our minds. (Romans 12:2)

6. I am happy to be married to a positive person, because negativity will destroy what you're trying to do.

g. Beware of work tensions spilling over into the family.

1. Would I want my kid to become a Navigator?

2. Would I want my kid to become like me?

3. Have a point of no return on your way home where you drop everything so you don't poison the family with business concerns.

2. Attitude shapes the person more than anything else.

C. Enjoy your family.

1. Are you enjoying your life?

a. Jesus said he came that we might have life.

b. How attractive is your home?

c. What's the climate like in your home? Is it fun?

d. If your home is frequented by the neighborhood kids that is a great compliment.

e. Some people with immaculate homes have no traffic coming through it and they are lonely.

2. You will never be happy anywhere until you are happy wherever you are.

a. If today is not a good day tomorrow will also be a disappointment.

b. We spend too much time living in the past.

- c. Did you know my wife is a grandmother?
- d. She tells me to take more time to smell the roses.
- e. Don't bring me roses when I die because I won't be able to smell them then.

D. Communicate your love.

1. We are commanded to love one another. (John 13:34-35)
2. Do you love your family?
 - a. How do they know that you love them?
 - b. How do we communicate love?
3. We communicate love in five ways.
 - a. By spending time with people.
 1. You can't love someone you don't know.
 2. Knowing someone requires time.
 3. Some parents make foolish decisions by demanding certain hair styles of their kids, yet neglecting spending time with them.
 - b. By listening to people.
 1. Some dogs make better parents than people.
 2. Some parents do a great service to their kids by just listening to them.
 3. Adults that interrupt me when a child is talking to me is irritating.
 4. Most of us don't treat children with respect. My unsaved father taught me more respect than many Christians.
 - c. By becoming interested in the things that interest others.
 1. With the juvenile department I used to pick up kids whose parents would be bothered by us contacting them.
 2. The parents would sometimes deny that their kids were even involved with hard drugs.
 - d. By being present in the home.
 1. Being all there is important to communicating love.
 2. Some of you have been great parents.

3. I gave up golf because people lie about their score and found being home is more profitable than being on the gold course.

e. By affirming the people you love.

1. Are you on your kid's back or on their team?

2. My kid was once losing a football game 64 to 0 at the half in a downpour, yet he remembers me and Gene in the stands cheering him on. This is what he remembers at age 21.

3. I could give you hundreds of illustrations of how kids remember affirmation.

E. Surround your children with significant models. (Philippians 2:19-22)

1. The doctrine of Christian hospitality is neglected.

2. It is required of elders.

3. In the average church only a few people do most of the entertaining.

4. I would enjoy exposing my kids to you in the Navigators.

F. Relax in the Lord.

1. God never calls you to a task without providing resources to fulfill it. (2 Timothy 1:7)

a. God does not give us a spirit of timidity. God gives us a spirit of ability. God gives us a spirit of unconditional love. God gives us a spirit of self discipline.

2. If God cannot control my life how can he control my children?

3. We need to trust God for our children and grandchildren as well as trusting him for our own lives.

4. Scripture doesn't promise that everything will come out right, but he promises to develop us as persons.

9. We all need to face the difficult task of trusting God for our children and grandchildren.

10. The test of our faith is trusting God when all is going in the wrong direction.

11. The winners in Hebrews' hall of fame never saw the end result. (Hebrews 11)

a. Abraham did not inherit the land.

b. Abraham did believe God.

c. I spend time writing a script for God yet he refuses to read it.