T-L-C for the Family

Jim Bill McInteer
T-L-C FOR THE FAMILY

I. From the time we invented O.K. to stand for all right, Americans have been using short cuts.
A. Betty asked: "What's B.L.T.?"
B. We take voyages on the QE II.
C. We sleep in our PJ's.
D. We watch TV, drink Coke, read the paper.

II. We speak of human behavior as needing TLC.
A. I say we need it for the family. Swindoll card #0
B. But I want to talk of
   1. Time for Training in Truth
   2. Looking & Listen, Lead
   3. Learn compassion

III. It takes time to train for truth.
Heb. 12:14 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed" (We must pick up the baton)
Joel 1:3 "Tell ye your children of it"
Josh. 4:21-24 "What mean these stones"
Deut. 6:20 "What mean these testimonies"
Ps. 111:4 "He hath made his works to be remembered"

A. Time
   1. "We assume that if something can be done at all, it can be done quickly & efficiently. Our attention spans have been conditioned by 30 sec. commercials. Our sense of reality has been flattened by 30 page abridgements." (Eugene Peterson)
   2. Tom Hansel - Card #1
      "When I relax, I feel guilty"
3. Steve Turner's poem "Aging".
   "At some point in his life there came a shortage of future."
4. Rickerson - Card #2
5. High school student said to teacher "Life is so...so...so...daily."

B. Time to Train - "Train in way...go"
1. James Dobson says one of the best ways to train children to understand what gifts are theirs is while they are young give them lots of experience so they can see where interests & abilities rest. Try music, physical, mental skills.
2. Who should do this? Many feel the breakdown of families is due to negation of creative leadership from the father. "And ye fathers, provoke not your..."
3. Tim Hansel's 10 questions - Card #3.
4. Book - "If You Don't Know Where You're Going, You'll Probably End Up Somewhere Else". Just lway 32
   a) Set goals?
   b) Top priority?
   c) Achieve by magic or osmosis?

C. Truth
1. To not know truth is to not know Jesus - who is Truth!
2. Schaeffer cards #4 & #5.

Ps. 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wis..."
IV. We Must Look, Listen, Lead - That is to communicate.

Prov. 26:23-25 "The heart of the wise teacheth his
Deut. 4:9-10 Read "There is a way mouth

A. Parents model.
1. Larry Richards card #6
2. Survey nationwide: "What kind of help do
you feel your family needs?" In the top 3
came "Teaching children Christian values"
3. Schaeffer card #7 "No use Dad"
4. 11 year old wrote "If I could change my
mom & dad: I'd make them less rigid, make
them listen to what I say before they answer,
make it so they didn't assume the worst all
the time."
5. Paul Tournier card #8
6. How communicate?
a) Eye - Dr. Campbell #9
b) Dress - Schaeffer #10
7. Have you goals?
   a) Strategy for Living #11
   b) Hansel quotes #12
B. Let's lead our children
Ps. 81:13 "Oh that my people had hearkened"
Joel 1:12 "Joy is withered away from the sons of men"

V. Compassion Seen
   A. "The best thing a dad can do for his children is
to love their mother" - say it, do it.
Lam. 3:21-24 Read "clip on Kiss (123)
Bacon - Pig (1239)
B. Facts
1. Adam & Eve experiment #13
2. Schaeffer #14
3. Schaeffer #15
4. Schaeffer #16 & #17

Prov. 15:17 "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is"

Isa. 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee"

Ps. 48:14 "This God is our God for ever and ever"

5. Kissed by an angel #18

Mid-Amer. Evangelism Workshop, Indianapolis-6/29/85
Lone Oak Church, Paducah, KY - 9/24/85
He will be our guide even unto death
Training for Service Series, Shawnee, OK - 10/7/85
West End-Wed. Night Family Series - 10/23 & 10/30/85
PREFACE

In many houses all across America, Christian parents and children are living together—but not after the Bible pattern. The father provides for the home, sits in his chair at the head of the table, occupies his special place in front of the TV and occasionally asserts his authority. But he fails to fulfill his office as the spiritual leader. The mother is faithful to her husband, sees that the family eats nourishing meals, and keeps the house clean, but cannot relate spiritually to her husband or her children. The sons and daughters are halfhearted in their commitment to Christ, have poor study habits, rarely read the Bible, and seldom pray.
Bored by a tedious address in the House of Commons, Winston Churchill dozed off. Indignant, the speaker strode over to him and said:

"Must you fall asleep while I am speaking?"

Without opening his eyes, Churchill answered: "No, it is purely voluntary."
The idol of conformity of appearance is subtle indeed. The most obvious place in which we conform to the dictates of society is in the family structure. Consider what we see: TV, movies, or in your child's second reader. You are the traditional family, with father working to provide the needs of his family, mother staying at home to make a home, and children being nurtured in an environment of security and love (not compensation, sentimentality, over-indulgence).

Instead we see single parents, families break up by divorce (and often remarriage with a merging of 2 or more families) an increasing representation of alternate life styles.
13% of all families are traditional.
18 million children are in single-parent homes.
64% of all 3 to 5 yr. old children are in child care facilities.
2.7 million single men & women cohabitate.
Homosexuality is increasing.

It's About Time

Jeanne Thurrow
Assoc. Prof., Univ. of Mass.
Chuck Swindoll says it so well:

Whatever else may be said about the home, it is the bottom line of life, the anvil upon which attitudes and convictions are hammered out. It is the place where life's bills come due, the single most influential force in our earthly existence. No price tag can adequately reflect its value. No gauge can measure its ultimate influence... for good or ill. It is at home, among family members, that we come to terms with
circumstances. IT IS HERE LIFE MAKES UP ITS MIND.

The idol of conformity & appearance is subtle & dead. (She'd seen the idol in Japan on vacation). The most obvious place in which we conform to the dictatorship society is in the family structure. Consider what we see—TV, movies, in your child's reading. Sure are the traditional families, the ideal family, the family that's always there for you & the children are cherished & nurtured in an environment of security & love (not competition, antisociality, over-endulgence). Instead we see single parents, foster parents, family breakdown by divorce, & often remarriage with a merging of two or more families in overcrowded living situations. Alternative life styles are becoming more traditional. More children raised in single-parent homes, 64% of 18-year-olds are living in one-parent households, & 2-4% of single men & women cohabitate. Homosexuality increasing...
In When I Relax I Feel Guilty, I use the illustration of how at age thirty-five you have only five hundred days left to live. My thesis is that if you live until age seventy or seventy-one, in the next thirty-five or thirty-six years you will have to spend a great deal of your time sleeping, working, eating, and traveling. You will also have to tend to personal matters such as hygiene and maintaining good health. There will be the odd chores and the myriad of miscellaneous time stealers
that often come in the form of "emergencies." My estimate is that in the next thirty-five or thirty-six years, after taking care of all of the "necessary" things, you will have roughly the equivalent of five hundred days to spend as you wish.
As I work with my own family I find that the key to communicating Christian values to our children is time. We must spend time with our youngsters if we expect them to know, understand and accept our values. Each week a parent's calendar should include three dimensions of family time: times together around God's Word; just for fun family times; and time spent with each child alone.
Little Anita was allowed to sit in her mother’s place at the dinner table one evening when her mother was absent. Her slightly older brother, resenting the arrangement sneered, “So you’re the mother tonight. All right, how much is two times seven?”

Without a moment’s hesitation, Anita replied nonchalantly, “I’m busy. Ask your father.”
How much do you really know about your child? Take your son or daughter out to breakfast or even dinner this week and discover the following (if you don't know already):

1. What makes your child really angry?
2. Who is your child's hero or heroes? Why?
3. What is your child's biggest fear?
4. By what names is your child called
“Well, there is just one way to bring up a child in the way he should go, and that is to travel that way yourself.”

—Pillar of Fire
We live in a day of real desolation as far as a breakdown goes. In many universities, high schools, primary schools and even kindergartens, such a thing as the existence of truth is laughed at. If a child writes 'creation' as the way the world began, the answer is marked wrong, because according to many textbooks and teachers there is no Creator-God. The teaching is of an impersonal, chance universe, in which there not only is no God, but no real meaning to human personalities and therefore no real significance to an individual human being and no reason to have any morals. What a black outlook! No wonder our children are handed drugs by people who couldn't care less how many lives they destroy—because they don't really believe life has any value. "What difference does it make," thinks some intellectual "whether we live or die."
There is no meaning to life."

WHAT IS A FAMILY? - p. 133
Edith Schaeffer
Since so many things in the twentieth century are screened through a sieve of Hegelian relativistic thinking— that everything is relative and truth does not exist; that there is really no right and no wrong— then it is important to have discussion articles or news items in which the children at even ten or twelve begin to spot what is wrong (and begin to put a "red light and beep" in their own minds), rather than being brainwashed.

WHAT IS A FAMILY? - P. 176
Edith Schaeffer

חָֽבָֽלִין
Only the take heed to thyself & keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen & lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but teach them thy sons, & thy sons' sons. Deut 4:9
As Larry Richards says in his thought-provoking book on homecentered Christian education: "It is a basic principle of human life that we communicate what is in our hearts to our children for good or for bad.

"Sociologists speak much of the processes by which what is in the heart—the core of the personality—is transmitted to others. The processes by which likeness is communicated are most often of as
'modeling' or 'identification.'

"Wherever there is close emotional involvement as in the parent-child relationship, there will be modeling and identification....Strikingly, identification is a process that focuses on what we are, not what we say.

"This is why God has given us the great prerequisite, His great warning: 'These words....shall be on your heart.' Before we can lead our children to love and obey God, we ourselves must be loving and obeying Him."
Creativity needs the availability of reaching the attention of a sympathetic friend at just the right moment. This is true in the budding of creativity in an early childhood moment, but it is just as true in the serious creativity of a genius. Someone needs to come and watch, listen, look, respond.

WHAT IS A FAMILY? P. 61
Edith Schaeffer
The little boy was helping his mother serve the guests at the dinner table. He brought in a piece of pie. He set it in front of his father who passed it on to one of the visitors. After several such trips the little boy said, “It’s no use, Dad—the pieces are all the same size.”

It is not unusual to have our motives questioned. Sometimes we are hurt when someone accuses us of things that have never entered our minds. However, we are all guilty of imagining evil on the part of others.

People generally treat us the way we expect to be treated. Remember, life has enough barbs without imagining more.

—Pulpit Helps
As Paul Tournier said so well:

It is impossible to overemphasize the immense need humans have to be really listened to, to be taken seriously, to be understood. No one can develop freely in this world and find the life full without feeling understood by at least one person...Listen to all the conversations of our world, between nations as well as those between couples, they are for the most part, dialogues of the deaf.
Eye contact is crucial not only in making good communicational contact with a child, but in filling his emotional needs. Without realizing it, we use eye contact as a primary means of conveying love, especially to children. The child uses eye contact with his parents (and others) to feed emotionally. The more parents make eye contact with their child as a means of expressing their love, the more a child is
Don't think that it is only important to wear attractive things for your husband: it is also important to wear feminine things for your children - interesting new aprons with apples for pockets, even long dresses for dinner (cotton or wool, plaid skirts or denim). Children will behave differently towards an attractively dressed mother, just as a husband will. But, strangely enough, even though you are the mother, you will be more polite to your own children if you dress them attractively, just as you will look at yourself in the mirror with more respect if you splash cold water on your face, redo your hair, and put on something fresh. You can feel like a different person as well as act like a different person when you care and do something about your appearance.

WHAT IS A FAMILY? - Edith Schaeffer - P.87
A book I highly recommend that you read to be a better dad or a better manager is STRATEGY FOR LIVING by Edward Dayton and Ted Engstrom. In the first chapter Dayton and Engstrom remind us, "How we live our life is determined by our GOALS. What goals we choose are determined by our PRIORITIES. Whether we reach our goals is determined by our PLANNING." The authors spend the rest of the book explaining how to develop a creative "strategy for living,"
which is a process of integrating goals, priorities, and planning into the best life possible for each of us.

This I recite to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is the Lord’s mercy, that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul, therefore will I hope in Him. Lam 3
Longevity

There may be more to that morning peck on the cheek than meets the eye. According to a recent survey by an insurance company, a husband who kisses his wife each morning before going off to work in the field, factory, office or wherever, gains several advantages over the non-kisser.

The study found that the husband who gives the morning kiss will probably live five years longer than the one who doesn't.

And what's more, a kissing husband will have fewer auto accidents, lose up to 50% less time from work as a result of illness, and will earn 20% to 30% more than the non-kissing husband.
Sweet Nothings

Three young couples had just gotten married and they were spending their honeymoon at an exclusive honeymoon resort. The couples became friends and decided to have breakfast together one morning.

Being newly married, each husband felt it was important to show his affection for his bride at the breakfast table. Each tried to outdo the other.

When the waitress brought the food to the table, the first husband leaned toward his bride and said, "Please pass the sugar, Sugar."

Upon hearing this, the second husband leaned over to his bride and said, "Please pass the honey, Honey."

The third husband looked perplexed and scratched his head. But, not to be outdone, he leaned over to his bride and said, "Please pass the bacon, Pig."

Brighton, Colo.    Roger
1. What character qualities do you want your children to have by the time they're twenty-one years old? How do you plan to insure that they have them?

2. What are the three most important rules for your children? If they were asked the same question, would they come up with the same answers as you?

3. How are your kids different? What are you doing to provide for and even enhance their differences?
4. If someone were to ask your children, "What's really important in your family?" how would they answer?

5. In the past two weeks, what specifically did you do with your children to influence their character, improve their skills, or shape their attitudes?

Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the evils of these days. Don't be vague but grasp firmly what you know to be the will of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:15-17
Phillips
In a book called *The Self in Pilgrimage*, Earl Loomis, Jr., tells an amazing story about Emperor Frederick, who rules the Roman Empire in the thirteenth century. The emperor, it seems, wanted to conduct a controlled experiment with the young children of slaves in order to figure out what language Adam and Eve spoke in the Garden of Eden. According to his logic, if the children never heard a human voice, then the language they would eventually speak would be the same as that of Adam and Eve. (This is admittedly fairly primitive logic, but then you must remember it was the thirteenth century.)

In order to insure that none of the children would ever hear the sound of a human voice, the wet nurses in charge of the children were given strict orders to maintain complete silence while caring for them. The children were given the best of food, warmth, and
the like. But they never heard any spoken words and the implication is that they were also given a minimum of touch or any other kind of communication, for that matter.

In concluding the story, Loomis writes:

"It is tremendously difficult for a woman to be silent with a child. Nonetheless, the nurses succeeded. According to the account, not one of them uttered a single word to any of the children. In other words, the experimental conditions were a success. But the children all died."

What a tragic and powerful story. Dads, don't forget those wonderful tools God gave you. Use all of them often with your kids.

"What Kids Need Most In A Dad" - Tim Hansel - pgs. 77 & 78
Babies have been left in hospitals with all the proper nutrition, sanitation, temperature, water, sleep and scheduled attention as to physical needs. We are told of the amazing difference in physical and intellectual development when such children were given love (in the form of people taking the job of rocking and cuddling and playing with a child so many hours a week) and others were not. At one period in recent history, child-care books told mothers to pay special attention to strict schedules and never to pick up a baby. Then experts began to tell of the tremendous harm done by such harsh schedules and urged that babies be rocked, sung to, and loved in sympathetic response to their crying. It was found that babies stimulated by bright bits of cloth put close to their beds, given a music-box lamb to feel and listen to, and talked to and read to long before they could be expected to understand
would talk earlier and have a higher IQ than the babies left too long alone with no stimulation intellectually or emotionally. Not only intelligence but personality is affected by the early environment. Everyone who has had anything to do with children who have been wandering the streets (in certain parts of the world in "packs") knows something of the amazing changes which have taken place when such children were placed in a totally different place with a different set of balances in their environment.

WHAT IS A FAMILY?p. 36-37
Edith Scheffer
A normal six-month-old infant born to deaf-mute parents has a peculiar way of crying. Tears stream down his cheeks, his face is in a grimace, the whole body shakes — but not a peep comes out. These infants who, after birth, cry with a normal sound, discover after one or two months that the sound does not help them; therefore, they give it up. It’s hard to believe, but the child’s behavior is well designed and he will not continue any behavior pattern if it does not get him desired results. The difficulty adults have in realizing this fact is due to their unawareness of the child’s purpose and goals in whatever he does.

—The Power of Children sent by the Rev. Coleman Inge
It seems to me that this is a very important answer to the question "What is a family?" The family is a formation center for human relationships. The family is the place where the deep understanding that people are significant, important, worthwhile, with a purpose in life, should be learned at an early age. The family is the place where children should learn that human beings have been made in the image of God and are therefore very special in the universe. In other words, one is not simply to sit with a set of sentences to teach by rote memory, while every action and example is denying the words.

WHAT IS A FAMILY? - P. 69
Edith Schaeffer
Compassion and understanding of what another person needs comes through having been cared for. Anyone who has had the comfort of a little pot of tea, some cookies or toast, or a cup of coffee and some cheese and crackers, or a glass of milk and some fruit - just when he was feeling "down" in the midst of a project - then knows how to do those same things for someone else. A family is the place where this kind of care should be so frequently given that it becomes natural to think of the needs of other people.

WHAT IS A FAMILY? - P. 86
Edith Schaeffer
In this chapter I will present the ingredients that go into making a solid marriage. Only in a home where husband and wife live harmoniously can all the family members find fulfillment, warmth, and security. It goes without saying that the children in the home are far more likely to become productive Christian members of the community than those who grow up in tension and conflict.

A strong, healthy marriage is marked by at least three desirable characteristics: (1) a lifelong fidelity, (2) a pattern of Christlike love in which both husband and wife sacrifice their own interests for the happiness of the other, and (3) a mutual respect for one another.
Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred there with.

Fear not; for I am with thee. Be not dismayed; for I am Thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
I heard a story some years ago about a teenager who had a very obvious birthmark over much of his face. And yet, it didn't seem to bother him. His self-esteem seemed secure. He related well with the other students and was well liked. He seemed to be in no way self-conscious about his very large birthmark, which was obvious to everyone else.

Finally, someone asked how this could
"Are you aware of the fact that you have this large birthmark on your face?"

He replied, "Of course I am."
"Can you tell me, then, why it does not seem to bother you in the slightest?"

The young man smiled and said, "When I was very young, my father started telling me that birthmark was there for two reasons: One, it was where the angel kissed me; two, the angel had done that so my father could always find me easily in a crowd."

He then continued, "My dad told me this
so many times with so much love that as I grew up, I actually began to feel sorry for the other kids who weren't kissed by the angel like I was."

Words are such a powerful tool. They can encourage or discourage, accept or deny, create hope or depression. Are you realizing the power of words in your own home? How much time do you actually spend talking with (not to) your kids each week?