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The Family: What Frazzles, Fractures, And Fuses It?

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I. God wants a secure home for His children - here & hereafter. In this lesson we ask 3 things about the family - what frazzles it, fractures it & fuses it?

II. What Frazzles It?

A. By frazzle I mean trouble, irritates, brings to point of breaking.

B. Here are some things

1. Being impatient - too young!
   (a) 1971 Bride 20.9
   1950 Bride 20.3
   1 Cor. 13:4 "Charity suffereth long & is kind
2. Imputing motives to others & thus putting them down. Pretty girl & I horse wagon
   1 Cor. 13:5 "Doth not behave itself unseemly,
   Mk. 12:31 "And the second is like, namely, this
   (a) Travel for pleasure to increase 133% in next 10 yr. $40 billion in '72 to $92 in '82.
   (b) Restaurant eating doubles $9 billion in '72 to $18 billion in '82.
   (c) Take walk Clip. - dog died - Ms. Wynn
4. Airing dirty linen.
   (a) 35,000 husbands leave annually - fleeing debts or in-laws.
   (b) 2 things I cook best - meat loaf & peach cobbler said bride. O.K., which is this?
5. Being dictatorial. "Son: Daddy, how soon will I be old enuf to do as I please?" Father, "I don't know - no one's ever lived that long."
6. Having no discipline.
   (a) Eli's kids. 1 Sam. 3:13 "Sons make themselves.
   (b) Clip on Harris poll.
   (c) Sisera's mother. Judges 5:28 "The mother of Sisera

   (a) U.S. World clip.
   (b) Flynn quote.

III. What Fractures a Family?

A. By this we mean break it up.
1. Ferdinand Lundberg, "The Coming World
   Transformation" wrote, "The family is near the
   point of complete extinction."
2. 3 out of 10 couples divorce, doubled since 1960.

B. Here are some ways:
1. Never be together. (5 ways)
   (a) 50% all wives in early 20's work, 40% in late
   20's. 1/3 all wives are.
   (b) 6 million preschool kids have working ma's.
      Day centers exist for only 625,000 kids. See
      clip. 2 Sam. 14:28 "So Abraham dwelt two full years

2. Have children away from parents most of time.
   (a) Ogden Nash, "Why did the Lord give us agility
      if not to escape responsibility.
      1 Sam. 1:22 "But Hannah went not up
      1 Sam. 1:6 "Year by year when she went up to

3. Teenagers leave family.
   Matt. 19:19 "Honor thy father & mother" - how
do we
(a) Obey them.
Col. 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in all things.
(b) Respect them.
(1) Show respect for teachings.
(2) Treat their habits with respect.
(c) Provide for them.

5. Sex & Money.
(a) Divorce highest among low income families.
   28.3% of couples earning $5000 marry more than once. 17% do who earn $15,000 or more.
(b) Wife's paycheck makes her independent. Hubby feels threatened.
(c) Attitude changed toward sex, 1971 Gallup Poll said 2/3 college students had premarital sex.
(d) See clip.

IV. What fuses a family?
A. By this we mean weld together.
1. Quote on Dead Sea Scrolls.
B. Here are some things:
   1. Partners in religious life. One out of 70 divorces are from those of same faith - yet one out of 3 in Ave. America.
      (a) Brewer quote.
      2 Cor. 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together"
   2. Absence of liquor - safest auto driver is sober; so should head of family be.
   3. Wisdom in handling money.
      (a) Give something.
      (b) Save something.
      (c) Spend some together as you meet family needs.
(d) 40% of working wives have husbands who earn less than $7,000.
(e) 5 basic appliances: stove, refrig., toaster, iron, radio. Not it's 13: washer, dryer, dish washer, blender, vacuum, record player, TV, A/conditioner, or car.
(f) Birth thru college now costs $40,000 per child. When ma doesn't work costs $58,000 in lost wages.

4. Obvious love for one another.
(a) Home life clip.
(b) Henry Ford clip.
(c) Baby rabbit.
(d) Right temperature is maintained by warm hearts & cool heads than by thermostats.

5. Together we face it all.
(a) Have family conferences.
(b) Suspicion breeds fear.
A YOUTHFUL TREND: HAVING NO CHILDREN

A growing trend among young couples is to have no children at all.

A study by the Economic Unit of "U.S. News & World Report" shows that the number of newlyweds who balk at becoming parents, although still small, is growing rapidly.

Census Bureau figures, cited in the study, indicate that 1 of every 25 wives between 18 and 24 years of age now expects to have no children. In 1967, the ratio was only 1 of every 100. Analysts predict this sharp rise will continue in the years ahead.

Disillusionment with parenthood seems particularly strong among college students. A 1965 sample of students at the University of the Pacific and other colleges in Stockton, Calif., found that 10 per cent wanted no children after marriage. By 1970, that percentage had risen to 24 per cent.

The number of couples who want only one child also has grown in five years—from 6 per cent in 1967 to nearly 10 per cent in 1972.

The number of women who plan to have one child or none has increased more than 80 per cent in the past five years.
Ruskin once observed that there were no children in Greek art, but that Christian art abounds with children. The prophet had declared that He would "gather lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom and shall gently lead those that are with young." (Isa. 40:11)

ME BE LIKE JESUS?, by Leslie B. Flynn
pg. 111, "Jesus, the Gentleman"
In 1946, a shepherd boy at the north shore of the Dead Sea discovered the first of the Dead Sea, or Qumran Scrolls. For your home and family, let me offer this benediction, found on one of the parchments:

MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH ALL THAT IS GOOD;
MAY HE ENABLE YOU TO COMPREHEND LIFE,
PERMIT YOU TO ENJOY ETERNITY,
AND TURN YOU TO HIS LOVING FACE,
FOR YOUR HAPPINESS, FOREVER!

"Keeping Peace in the Family" - By Harold M. Mallett - Page 143
Dr. EARL D. C. BREWER, Graduate Theological Union, Berkely, Calif., urging that religious questions be included in the U.S. Census: "Religion is far more important to society than the bathtubs we ask about. It is increasingly clear that religious attitudes and beliefs are deeply tied to a sense of well-being and mental health. We need especially, therefore, to identify measures in the field of religion — to discover which values actually improve the quality of human life." 12-Q
ALAN F. SEWELL of DePaul Univ., Chicago, American psychologist, proposing an inter­nat’l body be set up to deal with skyjacking: “With the airplane, behavior has become internat’l in scope. Law must now become internat’l in effect.” 7-Q

GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA about her latest boyfriend, French actor Renard Verlay, who is 20 yrs younger than Gina: “We don’t feel the difference in age at all. I’m in love and I like it.” 8-Q
HOME LIFE

A president of a small Christian college was asked why his four sons all grew up without getting into trouble. They never seemed to rebel. He replied that he didn’t know, but that he had asked one of his sons about it once. His son had not pointed to their church attendance or the pattern of regular devotions around the dinner table. He said: “You and mother are so happy at home together.”—H. S. VIGEVENO, Letters to Saints and Other Sinners (Holman).
The late Henry Ford in an interview with a young reporter was asked just what he felt were the disadvantages of great wealth. "Well," replied Mr. Ford, sadly, "for me it was when Mrs. Ford quit cooking."
Domestic-help shortage. Most children of working mothers are cared for at home. But domestic help is difficult to find.

The number of household workers declined from 1.7 million in 1960 to 1.2 million in 1970.

Experts warn that care for children of working mothers is posing large questions for the future of these youngsters. Dr. Ernest van den Haag, a noted New York City psychoanalyst, says that children under the age of 3 should neither be placed in day-care centers nor be left with a series of baby-sitters. Dr. van den Haag adds:

"The important thing is constant affection. When you have a frequently changing cast taking care of a young (continued on next news page)
Money and sex. Why do so many marriages break up? Sociologists say that most divorces involve conflicts over money and sex. A 1972 Census Bureau study found divorce rates highest among lower-income people. It revealed that 28.3 percent of couples earning less than $5,000 a year marry more than once, compared with only 17 percent at the level of $15,000 or more.

Also, for many couples, a strain is created when the wife works, because this upsets the family's "chain of command." The wife's pay makes her more independent of her husband and results in a household-duties shift. The husband often feels his leadership threatened.

Sociologists say that an increasing source of marital problems is the new importance couples place upon enjoying satisfactory sexual relations. In the past, sex within marriage was viewed primarily as a way of producing children, and enjoyment was not considered essential for a happy marriage.

That has changed. Many couples enter marriage today sexually experienced. In a 1971 Gallup Poll, nearly two thirds of the college students interviewed said they have had premarital sex relations.

Overemphasis on sex. Psychiatrists say that, as a result, many young couples place too much emphasis upon sexual performance. One partner's failure to perform as expected may produce guilt and shame for one and sharp disappointment for the other.

"The role of sex in marriage is vastly overrated," says Dr. van den Haag, the New York psychoanalyst. "Marriage is a 24-hour relationship, in which sex, as such, can occupy very little time." Overemphasis on sex produces a strain that causes some marriages to end, he said.

A drive is now under way to make divorce even easier than it is. Eight States have enacted "no fault" divorce laws, which make "irreconcilable differences" the grounds for ending a marriage. Six additional States have added a "no fault" clause to their lists of reasons for granting divorce.
work out in time. Her parents, in Chicago, now accept her relationship with Joe. She says:

"Communications are good. My father even stayed with us when he was out here on a trip."

The two maintain a checking account in Joe’s name and a joint savings account, which they plan to use someday to buy a house.

"I don’t know how we could work out the legalities if we bought a home," says Marian.

"If we had help from either set of parents, we probably would put the house in the name of the person whose parents helped."

Many women insist that girls who live with men without marriage often get the worst of it. They say that men in this arrangement obtain all the conveniences of marriage—sex, meals, housekeeping—without the responsibilities. A couple may share living expenses, so that the male’s contribution is reduced even further.

Marian and Joe have considered marriage. Marian says she is "not opposed," but Joe feels that a marriage license is "just a piece of paper." They have decided that not even pregnancy could drive them to the altar. Marian says:

"Public opinion is that the young are loose in morals. But I don’t think our situation is immoral. It is a valid relationship, and we both respect it."
FAMILY IN DANGER?

[continued from page 72]

child, he is unable to form the emotional bonds that a youngster needs, and the child feels abandoned.”

When it is available, domestic help can cost $10,000 or more a year, and day-care centers charge up to $2,000 a year for each child.

Also, when a baby-sitter fails to show up or the child is sick, the mother often has to stay home from work. Some women insist that this is unfair, that the husband should at times stay home with the child.

Thus far, however, few husbands are willing to make that sacrifice.

Faced with the expense and trouble in finding child care, many American women decide that working simply isn’t worthwhile.
A T A SHOPPING CENTER an elderly couple saw a pretty girl in a one-horse wagon filled with roses and carnations. Later, the wife remarked that the girl with the flowers was beautiful, that she looked like a model.

The husband looked at his wife in astonishment and told her he hadn’t noticed the girl.

"Don’t tell me," his wife remarked, "that you have quit looking at pretty girls!"

“Mama,” he replied enthusiastically, “every day as I go down the street I see beautiful women, but I haven’t seen a one-horse wagon in fifty years!”
Every morning for the last 11 years a salesman had awakened at six to take his dog for a walk. Recently the dog died.

The next morning the man stared at the ceiling for a few moments and then nudged his wife.

"Hey," he said, "Wanna take a walk?"
It is interesting that a Louis Harris poll taken for "Life" magazine indicated there is almost unanimous criticism of the lack of discipline in the family. Not only did the pollsters find that young and old agree (by 79%) that parental influence has declined over the past ten years, but 53% of the teenagers and 75% of the young adults thought that "parents have become too permissive." An outstanding 74% of teenagers and 88% of young adults agreed that "parents spoil their kids today."

"One Way to Change the World" - By Leighton Ford - Page 6
A baby rabbit may not even stay alive unless it is licked by its mother. It's an unspoken ministry.

Obviously, humans don't lick their children like animals, but the parallel is keen. Early, this means caressing their bodies. Voice tone and soothing assurance tell children they're wanted.

"Keeping Peace in the Family" - By Harold M. Mallett - Page 18