

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE HOME TEAM

Sometimes the best jokes center around marriage and the family. Such humor can be good medicine for the soul, but there are other times that we need to get down to some serious talk about the family.

First of all are you a controlling, overzealous parent? You know the kind. You can see them at the Little League fields. They are screaming at their children because they didn't hit the ball hard enough or they struck out. They aren't letting their children enjoy their childhood, but keep pushing them to "Win, win, win." Why are they doing this? Is it for the benefit of the child, or do they want to boast about their child's reputation?

Personal gain is the desire to serve our own needs instead of the needs of those we love. This can happen in many more ways than what I have already mentioned, but it narrows down to this: The person seeking this personal gain probably feels that what they are doing is really best for the whole family. Such an example is the parent who is a workaholic. Many times we feel that if we are just present in the house that what we are doing is really good for the family, but being in the same house doesn't always make it better.

As one person put it, "Love is a verb." It shouldn't be used as a noun in our lives as much as it should be used as a verb, an action word. Personal gain is just saying it when instead it should be shown.

Wesley L. Gustafson said, "The Christian home is the most important institution in the world. That does not minimize the importance of the church and state; they also have been ordained of God, but He places the home first - in time as well as in importance. It is the foundation upon which all other institutions are built; upon it the church and state will either stand or fall. What the homes are, the churches and schools are - and the government will be. Every place where there has been a neglect of home responsibilities, there eventually has been a crumbling of the nation."

Each family is a little church, and each family is meant to be a place of spiritual growth, compassion and encouragement. That is the way God planned for it to be, and a happy family should be but a taste of heaven on earth.

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