

The Family Friend



A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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A Beautiful Home

On the 75th anniversary of my parents' wedding day, I posted something on Facebook about the significance of that day to me. I really didn't expect a lot of comments about that. I was just thinking about them and wanted to remember that day.

I have a cousin who is quite a bit younger than me. In fact, he is enough younger that he was in high school when I taught at that high school. His father and my mother were siblings. As I remember it, we did not really spend that much time together.

However, there must have been enough time spent that my parents made an impression on him. It was, as you will soon read, a very favorable impression.

His was the first of only two comments about my post. I hope he doesn't mind me sharing what he posted with you:

"What an awesome tribute to aunt Jenny and uncle Delmar. *I have memories of visiting their beautiful home*

as a child. I was young, but my memories say love & safety" (emphasis mine, jf).

"Beautiful" was not a word I would have used to describe that house when I was growing up. It is not a word I would use to describe it now. When I first read my cousin's remark, I thought that the years must have clouded his memory. It took me a second or two, but it occurred to me that my cousin did not use the word "house." Instead, he used the word "home." He may not have intended to say anything significant by using that word. I don't know. I think that, whatever his intentions were, he expressed something very significant.

We did not have any of the things that many people think to be necessary for a beautiful house. It was not constructed with beautiful brick. In fact, it was constructed with a material that my dad had to "patch" from time to time. We had only one bathroom with only a tub (no shower). The furniture was far from new. The kitchen was not much bigger than one of the many closets found in many houses today. There was no central heat and air. In fact, during all the years I lived there, the "air-conditioning unit" was a window fan.

I think you get the idea.

There was not much about that house to make it special.

However, things like *love and safety* go a long way in making for a special and a beautiful *home*. I'm glad I got to grow up in an environment like that.

Maybe three words from my cousin's comment could serve as a challenge to all parents. Your children will, indeed, have *memories* of how they grew up.

Will they remember material things, or will they remember things like *love and safety*?

Will they remember a *house* or a *home*?

--Jim Faughn



Die At 75 or Else!?

Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel is the chief medical advisor to the Obama administration and was one of the main architects of Obamacare. He is another proponent of using the death of

human beings to promote financial security on a national level. He joins Peter Singer, whom we have discussed before in this column (see the [November/December 2010](#) issue). Singer is the Ira W. Decamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University who maintains that physically and mentally handicapped humans should be euthanized to stop the drain on resources that they demand. Recently an expectant mother asked atheist Richard Dawkins what she should do if her fetus has Down syndrome. Dawkins answered, "Abort it and try again. It would be immoral to bring it into the world if you have the choice" (*The Week*, September 12, 2014, page 16). In an article in *Atlantic* (October 2014) Emanuel wrote that we would all be better off if we died at 75. Emanuel believes that those who live beyond 75 no longer are productive members of society and are a burden because "they gobble up collective health resources." The future for our children and grandchildren has to be alarming as we rush toward "survival of the fittest" thinking at the national level. It is ironic that in the same magazine in which Emanuel's article is reviewed (*The Week*, October 10, 2014, page 19) there is a glowing, positive review of Tony Bennett's new album with Lady Gaga. Bennett is 88.

—News and Notes, [Does God Exist?](#), January/February, 2015

Communication Bombs

In his notebook entitled, **Family Seminar**, the late **Jack Exum** listed these things as "communication bombs"—actions that will have devastating effects on your marriage and family. You will notice similarities in some of the terms. For clarity, I have modified some of the phrases. His words and ideas are intact. (LC).

1. Fighting
2. Screaming
3. Yelling
4. Bickering
5. Sarcasm
6. Running down (one another)
7. Suspicion
8. Passing judgment
9. No grace
10. Making "mountains out of mole hills"
11. Being loud
12. Cruelty
13. Mad (angry)
14. Being "cold"
15. No sense of humor
16. Bragging
17. Boastful
18. Being a "loud-mouth"
19. Hostile
20. Hurtful
21. Mocking

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22. Being "cool"
 23. Stone-walling
 24. Being tentative
 25. Being negative
 26. Being fearful
 27. No Patience
 28. Poking fun
 29. Refusing to talk
 30. Moody
 31. Name-calling
 32. Vengeance
 33. Getting even
 34. Cursing
 35. Swearing
 36. Always better (than you)
 37. Being a "know-it-all"
 38. Being a smart-aleck
 39. Always . . .
 - Evaluating
 - Trying to improve (you)
 - Giving instructions
 - Criticizing
 - Correcting
 - Condemning
- Exum placed the following verse in the midst of his list:
"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." (James 3:5)