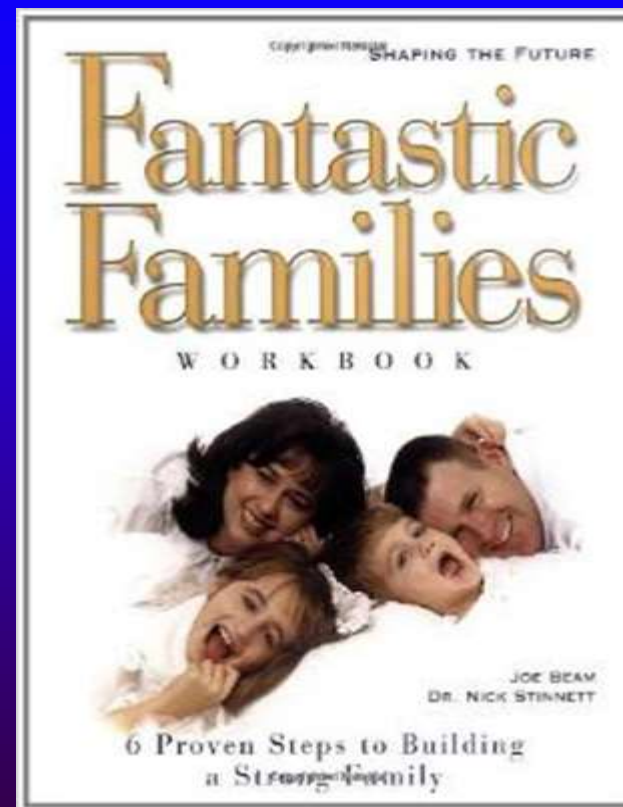
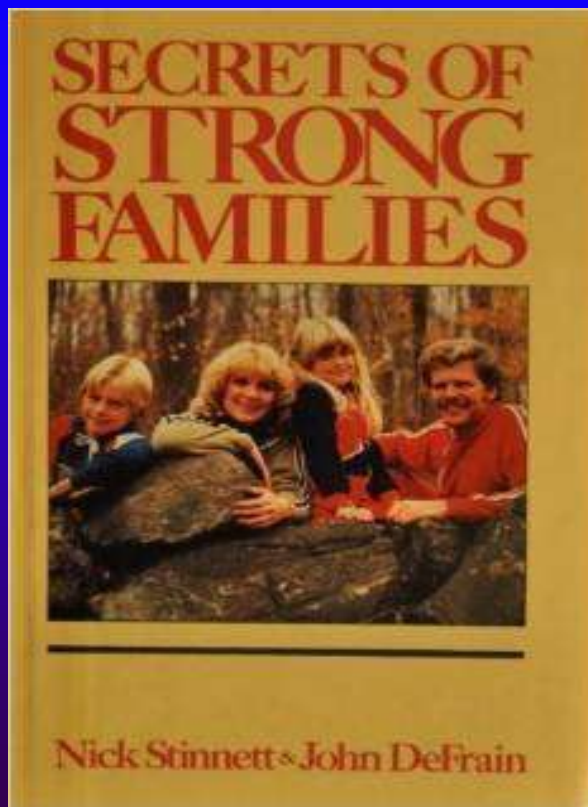


Traits of a Successful Family



Traits of a Successful Family

Social Scientist – Nick Stinnet.





THESIS:

- Look at Five Spiritual Criteria.
- Stinnet's findings & compare them to the Bible.

Five Spiritual Criteria

#1. Does it Endure? Matt 19: 6

Barbara Dafoe Whitehead --
Atlantic Monthly:



“Divorce may benefit the adults involved, but the dissolution of intact two-parent families is **harmful to large numbers of children**. If current trends continue *less than half of all children born today* will live continuously with their own father or mother throughout childhood.

Five Spiritual Criteria

Barbara Dafoe Whitehead -- Atlantic Monthly:



“Children from disrupted families have a harder time achieving intimacy in a relationship, forming a stable marriage, or even holding a steady job. Contrary to popular belief, many children do not bounce back after divorce and remarriage. Difficulties associated with the family breakup often persist 20, 30, even 40 years into their adulthood.”

Five Spiritual Criteria

#2. Does it **Nurture** *1 Cor 8:1?*

#3. Does it produce **good offspring**
Gen 18:19, 1 Tim 3?

#4. Does it **Contribute to the**
Community *Gal 6:10, Acts 20:35?*

#5. Does it **Glorify God** *Rm 15:6?*



If a family has these good
EFFECTS, then it pleases
God.

What are the **CAUSES**?

What Makes For A Strong Family?



Stinnet: Six Secrets

#1. **COMMITMENT** between husband and wife - *loyalty*.

- Do you expect a **life-time commitment**?
- What is there that shows **their attitude towards prior commitments**?
- The basis of great confidence in marriage has to do with the *character* of the person you marry.

What Makes For A Strong Family?





#2. **APPRECIATION** for each other (Prov 31:26).

- Show *Respect and love*.
- Ratio of *pleasing/unpleasing acts*.
- *Criticism kept to a minimum*.
- They say it and act it (Eccl 9:9)!
 - They feel a sense of *ownership*...
- Respect *privacy* - Key indicator!

What Makes For A Strong Family?





#3. **GOOD COMMUNICATION PATTERNS**

- Males and Females often misunderstand each other due to *“meta-communication.”*



➤ **EXAMPLE of meta-communication:**

➤ What she heard versus what he said.

- What she heard: “*You don’t expect me to take care of the kids, clean the house, and make dinner, do you?*”
- What he said... “*Feeling any better honey?*”

Communicate to avoid the wrong *expectations . . .*



GOOD COMMUNICATION

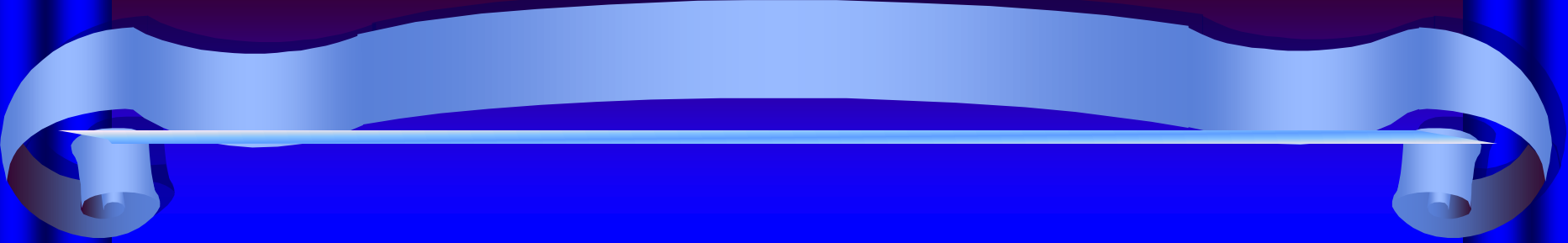
- Compliment each other
(Demonstrative..)
- Negatives are minimized.
(Avoid sarcastic put downs)
- Able to *accept compliments graciously!*
- Continue talking....like dating!

GOOD COMMUNICATION

- **Four levels of communication.**
 - **Cliché**
 - **Reporting**
 - **Ideas and judgments**
 - *** Feelings**
- **Parent child communication is two sided (Heb 5:14, Deut 6:7).**

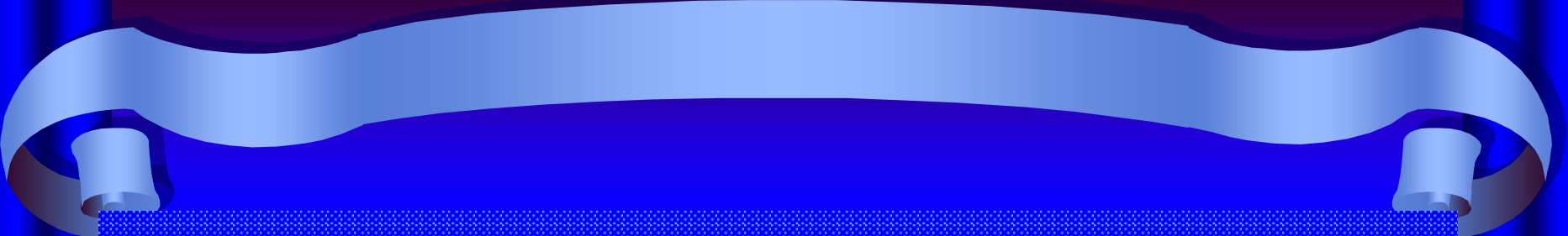
What Makes For A Strong Family?





#4. SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

- Kids spell *love*--**TIME!**
- *Quality & Quantity.*
- *Plan/schedule family.*
- Creates *close-knit feeling.*
- Choose family over career.



“One survey examined National Merit scholars, looking for common denominators in their upbringing. Almost without exception, the most astounding teenagers grew up in homes where the whole family sat down and ate dinner together at night.”

Source: *The Chicago Tribune*



What Makes For A Strong Family?





#5. A STRONG VALUE SYSTEM

- Opted for *traditional values-clearly defined roles*.
 - Communicated and *shared*.
 - *Divergent values* difficult
 - Conflict over **children**?
 - They are aware = *role models*.

What Makes For A Strong Family?





#6. ABILITY TO DEAL POSITIVELY WITH CRISIS.

- Support/loyal to each other/trouble!
- Strong families *rely on the resources of each member to heal and build together.*

Studied the Good Effects (Results) that we want with our families. We want a family that . . .

- ✓ *endures . . .*
- ✓ *nurtures . . .*
- ✓ *produces good offspring . .*
- ✓ *contributes to the community . . .*
- ✓ *and glorifies God!*



What Produces these Positive Results?

- ✓ **commitment . . .**
- ✓ ***appreciation . . .***
- ✓ ***good communication . .***
- ✓ ***TIME . . .***
- ✓ ***a strong value system. . .***
- ✓ ***ability to hold together in a crisis.***



What are you going to do?