

MARRIAGE
& *families*



EDITOR'S NOTES

**COVENANT VS. CONSUMER MARRIAGES/PARENTS DO MATTER/
KIDS WHO MISBEHAVE NEED TEACHING/CHOOSING SHOWS
WITHOUT EVEN A LITTLE INAPPROPRIATE SEX**



You're probably as weary as I am of all the misinformation we are fed every day—such as the recent so-called scholarly conclusion that parents don't matter much in children's lives. From common sense, you know this is ridiculous. You'll find solid evidence that parents do matter in this issue's lead article by Professor Craig Hart.

Then, whether you have young, middle-size, grown, or almost grown children—or are looking forward to these experiences—I think you'll want to read the excellent article about how important it is to teach kids who misbehave instead of yelling and administering harsh punishments. I wish I had understood this a long time ago, along with the fact that kids don't learn much from someone whom they perceive as the enemy. This is why Richard Young, et al., focus on teaching and why I talk so much about mini-scoldings and mini-penalties. Even if you don't have youngsters around your place right now, don't miss this one.

If you're as appalled as we are by the frightening statistics about marriages staying together, you'll be interested in Bill Doherty's comparisons of today's typical consumer marriages to those with real covenants. We are privileged to have this article by one of the country's most notable professors of family social science. You'll smile at the lines Bill uses from consumer advertising to drive home his points. Then you'll gulp as you see some of the tragic realities that are playing out across the stages of American towns and cities when people think little more about trading in a marriage partner than they do taking a television set or bedspread back to Wal-Mart. Professor Doherty's article ends with these words, "We have to unleash the human capacity for sustained moral commitment from the tentacles of the marketplace that is slowly choking it, generation by generation. The stakes could not be higher." We agree. Some won't get it—but some of society's biggest problems would be solved by understanding and following through with these three words—**Marriage, Covenants, Commitments**

Now, you may think these notes are enough from me. But following these excellent articles, you'll find my commentary called "It's a good-show—except **one little part**" I'm scared to death about what these "one little parts" are teaching kids, and others—especially that it's okay to play around with sex and how to go about it. This commentary includes some sources that will help you find movies that are entertaining and decent. I hope these pages will help those you can reach to choose shows that are uplifting instead of destructive.

And on the inside back cover you'll find an exciting news brief about the recent statement about the "Marriage Movement." Our congratulations go out to the one hundred initial signers of the principles for this much-needed movement. And thanks for all the calls, e-mails, and letters expressing appreciation for our publication.

Glen C. Griffin, M.D.

Glen Griffin is the editor-in-chief of Marriage & Families, a member of the faculty of Brigham Young University's School of Family Life, president of the American Family League, and author of It Takes a Parent to Raise a Child.

Marriage & Families is a peer-reviewed journal for young couples, husbands & wives, parents, and professionals—including educators, counselors, therapists, psychologists, physicians, social workers, nurses, public health people, teachers, clergy, experts in family law, and everyone interested in marriage and families. Our editorial board members belong to many faiths—with a common belief in the importance of traditional families. Marriage & Families is dedicated to strengthening families. Without apology, our name begins with the word marriage—a concept that many dismiss or completely ignore these days. However, since marriage and fidelity are essentials, not options, in a healthy society, we are pleased to bring you a publication containing credible data supporting this and other time-tested principles and values related to the family.

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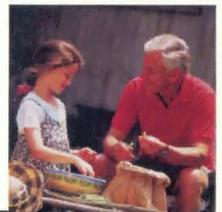


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