

## Removing the Chaos & Clutter – What Gets Your Family Most Excited?

We've been in a family series – Removing the Chaos & Clutter. And Mother's Day is a great day to continue with it as many of us are here with family today.

I want to ask all of you a question today that I hope will make us think and consider our family's life.

Before I ask the question, I want us to look at two Bible accounts that are separated by 500 years.

**2 Samuel 6:15,17-19** – Here we have King David near the beginning of his reign bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

- By bringing the Ark, Israel was bringing the Presence of God to the capital.
- It indicated their desire for God's guidance in their life and the importance they placed on their relationship with their LORD.

Fast forward 500 years. Due to Israel's sin, Israel had been taken captive, the Temple was destroyed. They had lived in captivity for 70 years and a group of Jews had been permitted to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

**Ezra 3:10-13** – We see the overwhelming thankfulness and joy of the returning Jews to God for bringing them back to Jerusalem to be with and serve their LORD once again.

- God had given them another opportunity; He had not forsaken them.

I want you to think of Israel as more than a nation, but a family. And as you think of the joy and excitement of Israel, I want to ask you this question – "What Gets Your Family Most Excited?"

A few weeks ago, I ran across this question in a blog post in Church Answers and it was directed toward churches. Which we may get to today, but the question really struck me.

"What Gets My Family Most Excited?"

- The answer reveals a great bit about who we are, what we believe.
- It speaks to how we spend our days, and our resources.

So, think – “What Gets You and Your Family Most Excited?”

- It’s probably a few things.
- Those things probably have changed a bit as everyone grows older.
- Some of the things never change.

For my family, there are some things that get us excited, but not most excited.

- Fun stuff like – Getting to go to our favorite Mexican Restaurant.
- Getting to watch the latest Star Wars show (maybe that one’s just me).
- Getting to play pickleball or visiting a new National Park.
- Years ago, it was Jacob’s ballgames, Emily’s singing.
- Those all perk us up and we get excited.

But MOST excited.

- Getting to be with each other – be it family dinner, going on vacation together.
- Getting to serve the Lord with the talents and opportunities He’s given us.
- Meeting new people, both here and in other countries, to share the Gospel with them and pour our lives into theirs.
- Seeing someone grow in their walk with the Lord.

Are you thinking? “What Gets Your Family Most Excited?”

Okay, let’s look at some things this reveals.

1. **It Reveals Our Passion** – What we have passion for is what we talk about. It’s what makes us light up. It’s what makes us pull out the pictures to show others.

- Jeff Singleton posted a picture yesterday that illustrated this point.
- A new grandbaby causes the passion to run strong.
- Getting to see my granddaughters will cause me to turn down Mexican food to go see them at home and eat a boring turkey sandwich.
- What you’re passionate about has a way of revealing itself without you knowing it.

In 2 Sam. 6 – We see passion caused the King David to dance with joy.

- The people sang out in song and instruments.
- They had a feast to celebrate God's presence.

In Ezra 3 – Their passion for the Lord caused them to weep, and shout thanksgiving to the LORD “because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel”.

- What we're excited about is shown in our passion.

Think back over this weekend or week – What consumed your conversation and time when you had a choice? That's at least one passion in your life.

However, passion is only one part of showing what gets us most excited.

## **2. It Reveals Our Priority**

This is an important distinction.

- I'm passionate about March Madness basketball, especially when Purdue makes it to the finals, but is it also a priority?
  - o No – I enjoy it. I'll even take half-days for it, but it's not a priority.

Outward passion doesn't always reveal priority.

There will be an ebb and flow in our revealed passion towards our priorities.

Let me use Bro. Brent as an example – Walking with and Serving the Lord gets him excited. It is also the top priority in his life.

- However, if he was always outwardly passionate – it would be exhausting.
- There are times our priorities show up as constant diligence.
- He shows it's most exciting by the priority he places the Lord in his life.

It would be odd for King David to spend every day as king dancing around, that was a passionate display for the day. But the priority of having the presence of God in Jerusalem was the top priority.

- That was a constant in his life.

This one is very telling – What priorities have first place in your life?

What Gets Our Family Most Excited is revealed in our passion, but also in our priorities.

- If you have kids at home, ask them – What do you think are our top priorities based on how we live our lives?
- Young kids won't lie – the teens may tell you what you want to hear.

For instance, we can get excited about our family – And next to our walk with the Lord, our family should be a top priority.

- God has given us the responsibility to raise our family and to lead them in His truth.
- The priority of family will come across in many different ways.
  - o The time you spend with them versus everyone else. (Preferring them)
  - o The way you prepare and care for them.
  - o Teaching them skills and giving instruction.
  - o Coaching and playing with them.
- However, our priorities can get out of whack – The time with the family without the Lord becomes the priority.
  - o Or the accomplishment of the child (be it a talent, a sport) takes priority over the raising of the child.
- We wind up so busy going and going that the club, team, school activity, GPA becomes the priority over the family.
  - o I'm for doing things well and for teaching accomplishment, but let's make sure the top priority is to follow our Lord well and to lead our family well.
  - o The fruit of following God's priorities is generational and actually eternal.

What will your family say are your top priorities?

- Is time with the Lord and serving Him them evident to them?
- Priorities are taught, but more often they are caught.

What Gets Your Family Excited also –

### **3. It Reveals Our Perspective**

What we get excited about shows where in time we're living.

- King David was living in the present – He was excited for God's presence with them then and in the future.
- The people of Ezra 3 were thankful to be breaking from the past, and grateful to be moving forward.

- Some of the older people were crying because the new Temple wasn't near what the old one was, but there was also joy that God had not forgotten them. They were restored.

I see excited families serving the Lord at Friendship that find themselves like the people of Ezra.

- There might have been some glory days in our past, but we're grateful God is still working in our lives.
- I see Christians excited as they've come out of a bad situation of their own doing or someone else's, but they're excited because God hasn't forgotten them and He has restored them.
  - Passion, Priority, Perspective

Are you or your family most excited about something that occurred 30 years ago?

- It's almost like the 30-year-old that maxed out in life as a senior in high school.
- Those memories are great, but don't let them steal your today and tomorrow.

God's relationship with you is to continue to grow throughout our life.

He has new opportunities of service.

Our family roles change, but they're never gone, they're just different.

- I remember Bro. Preston continuing to study the Word as long as he could even though he had stepped away from preaching.
- I watch Bro. Gary put out a devotional thought for others to read along with his music selection every morning.

Perspective – "God's still working on me, to make me what I oughta be"

That's something to get excited about.

Lastly, what gets your family most excited –

#### **4. It Reveals Our Personality**

What floats your boat, may not float mine and that's okay.

Every person and family here today is unique, with unique skills, desires, and likes. And God made us that way on purpose.

- I get excited about stuff that would bore you to tears and vice versa.

- God has “tempered the body together” and He’s done it “as he will”.

Embrace your peculiarity – Quit trying to be normal – Normal is highly overrated.

- If you’re right with the Lord and following His Word, use your personality for Him and be excited about it.

I realize this is a lighter sermon, but I wanted us to let the Holy Spirit speak to us through this question.

As you consider it for yourself and your individual family, may we take the next step and ask the same thing about us as a church.

- This is what I’ve been wrestling with over the past few weeks.
- What Gets Friendship Baptist Church Most Excited?

We are a people focused on *Helping People Meet, Model, and Magnify Jesus*.

How do we do that?

- I think we’re passionate about seeing people Connect - seeing people saved and also join the church.
  - o We love to spend time within the church family also – Connecting.
- I think we’re passionate about Serving – It’s part of our personality – we’re involved in ministering to each other and to those that come to those ministries.
- I think we’re getting more passion towards Growing in our walk with the Lord. Discipleship is a growing priority in our life.
- I think we lack passion in Sharing our faith to those outside the church walls.
  - o We know the Gospel, we share the Gospel within the church, but too few of us share the Gospel out in the world.
  - o We rejoice to see people saved, we want to see people saved, but if we’re honest the priority of personally sharing is not as high as it needs to be.
- This is something we’re going to work on as a church family.
- We’re putting focus on both our Growing and Sharing with Bro. Brent’s new roles as well as looking at how we share our faith in today’s world, and provide training and opportunities to be the light we’re called to be.

I praise the Lord for the balance of perspective we have as a church.

- This year's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary has really shown a light on this – We are proud of our heritage and grateful for the men and women that have brought us to today.
- But we see who we are as a church family, we have the direction God has given us and are serving today and looking forward to the new opportunities.

Today – Ask yourself, your spouse, your family – What Gets Us Most Excited?

- What do our passions indicate?
- What do our priorities show us?
- What does our perspective reveal?
- What can our personality provide opportunities for us?

I hope there are some good conversations.

I hope there are some moments that cement who you are in their hearts.

Chances to Praise the Lord as David and the Israelites did.

And if there are some misguided passions and priorities – acknowledge them, change them, and repent of them if necessary.