

Family – What Are We Missing?

One of the greatest challenges to family life is avoiding the threat of complacency
(The lost of interest which result in lack of effort)

Complacency has the tendency to create an atmosphere of misplaced reliance
(Taking people for granted)

Family life should be based upon genuine and mutual love, concern and commonality
(Shared life)

There are times when it seems that nothing a family member does is correct. This comes from:

- **Unreasonable expectation**
- **Lack of fulfillment**
- **Unjustifiable comparisons**

Job's wife told him to "Curse God, and die" **Job 2:9**

Job's wife suffered almost as much as Job did. Except for her health, she too lost everything-home, family, and possessions. What's interesting is that her attitude and response exactly matched the one Satan, told God he would accomplish with Job

She had an unreasonable expectation of the length and depth of the family issues
She was unfulfilled as a mother and wife
She had unjustifiably compared Job's current dilemma to his past

The sensing of emptiness and lack of fulfillment in a family can be overcome. It requires hard work and proactive addressment. Every member of the family must be engaged in the process.

Isaiah 43:1-3 "...When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee..."

(God is interested in your struggles!)

Approaches to handling Emptiness within the family:

1. **Be truthful about your feelings and expectation**
2. **Develop real family values based upon God's principles and personal agreement**
3. **Avoid and get rid of toxic consolations**
4. **Invest in whole family relationships**
5. **Structure family intimacy**
6. **Periodically reevaluate your personal priorities**