

This Week's Message: Family
By Ellie Lingner

Family: n. (obsolete) all the people living in the same house; household 2. a) a social unit consisting of parents and the children they rear b) the children of the same parents c) one's husband or wife and children 3. a group of people related by ancestry or marriage; relatives 4. all those claiming descent from a common ancestor; tribe or clan; lineage 5. a criminal syndicate under a single leader 6. a commune living in one household, esp. under one head 7. a group of things having a common source or similar features; specifically in biology, ecology, language, math.

Face it, your family made you who you are today-genetically, socially and in just about every way you can think of.

Some of what you inherited may be wonderful: gorgeous hair or teeth, a great sense of humor, longevity. You all obviously got lots of brain power.

Some of it may not please you quite so much-the genetic pattern for heart disease or diabetes or baldness, a bad temper, or being too short to play basketball.

There are plenty of things about your family that you may love or not love, but the fact is that they are immutably and forever, your family.

They may be your biggest fans or your toughest critics. Deal with it. They are your family.

As you get older, your perception of each member of your family will probably change. Your parents see the world differently than you do just because they have experienced it for so many more years than you have. You may not agree with them, but listen. There is value in experience. When you are tempted to shut them out, try to put yourself in their shoes. They know things you will know too, but it will take a couple of decades.

And, of course, it's trite but true, when you're with your family, treasure every moment because no one ever knows how many more of those moments there will be.

Week's Quotes:

"Some families can trace their ancestry back three hundred years, but can't tell you where the children were last night."

"Nothing keeps a family together like having one car in the shop."

"Happy families are all alike; every unhappy one is unhappy in its own way." Leo Tolstoy.

"Every family tree produces some nuts."

"Many a family argument has been saved by the doorbell or the telephone."

"Children may tear up a house, but they never break up a home."

"It takes a raft of money to keep a family afloat these days."

"A real family man is one who looks at his new baby as an addition rather than a deduction."

"Some family trees suffer from lack of pruning."