

Back to the “good old family” (audio)

Script

Journalist: When Glenn Stanton looks around on what’s happening to American families, he doesn’t like what he sees one bit. So, I asked him when does he think things took such a turn to the worse.

Glenn Stanton: I think that one of the biggest changes that we have gone through in family in... in this country is the industrial revolution, where on the farm it was typically families woke up, they worked alongside each other on the farm, they did chores together, but then with industrialization a lot of people moved off from the farm, they moved in to crowded cities, they started living next door to people of different value systems and they started going to work alongside other people’s husbands and wives, creating the opportunity, for new opportunities and life opened up to a good way but also in negative ways as well, and that is, you know, the challenge of other potential sexual mates, infidelity, things like that, there’s the issue of very controversial one in terms of women going into the workplace.

Journalist: And..., and do you feel that is a..., a good thing, Glenn, is that a positive development?

Glenn Stanton: Clearly, that’s been a good thing in terms of women being empowered that way, but it’s also had a very significant impact upon the family. It’s interesting today that we see this trend for a lot of these women deciding even though they’ve got high-powered college degrees and they’re making their feminist moms very proud, they themselves are deciding to stay home and have child-bearing and child-raising as their primary function, because many of them were latchkey kids. And they say, you know what? I’m not gonna sacrifice my own children the way that I felt sacrificed. And... and so, they are making it different..

Journalist: ... I’m not sure..., maybe you can explain to our listeners, what do you mean by sacrificed?

Glenn Stanton: Well, I think that they certainly felt that way, and that they came home... to an empty home. Or, they camehome to... child care.

Journalist: And when you talk about parents, are they interchangeable? In other words, if it was the mom who was going off to the law firm and the dad who was staying home to bring up the kid, er..., does that comport with your notion of traditional family values?

Glenn Stanton: Well, that’s a good question. Men and women are different. Women typically are the better, more full-time care-givers than the fathers. They are more attached to care-giving just ’cause of their psychology and physicality than men tend to be.