**Family**

**In the Bible, Matthew, Chapter 12, when told his mother and sister wished to speak to him, our brother Jesus replied in verses 40 and 50: "'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?' Then he pointed to his disciples and said, 'Look, here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do is my brother, my sister, and my mother.'"**

**All the believers were together and had everything in common.**

***(Acts 2:44)***

**American couples adopted 22,728 orphaned children from abroad last year – triple the number in 1990. Most of the children are from China and Russia, but there’s been a surge in adoptions from African nations, which private agencies attributed to actress Angelina Jolie’s adoption of a baby girl from Ethiopia. *(The Boston Globe, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 2, 2006)***

**The great advantage of living in a large family is that early lesson of life's essential unfairness. *(Nancy Mitford, author)***

**Families are about love overcoming emotional torture. *(Matt Groening, The Simpsons creator)***

**An “avuncular” family is one wherein the mother’s brother has more authority over her children than the father. Such there be among Hopis of the Southwest. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Our most basic instinct is not for survival, but for family. *(Paul Pearsall, neuropsychologist)***

**If you don't believe in ghosts, you've never been to a family reunion. *(Ashleigh Brilliant)***

**The best gift of all: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in one another. *(Mutual Moments)***

**You know you’re a big family when people ask you, out of the blue, if you are Mormon or Catholic. *(Rebecca Prewett, author and mother of six)***

**The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another’s desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together. (*Erma Bombeck)***

**The breadwinner’s main trouble today is that his family has developed a taste for cake. *(GRIT)***

**All men are brothers, which may be why they fight so much. *(Mickey Mansfield)***

**Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city. (George Burns)**

**To us, family means putting your arms around each other and being there. *(Barbara Bush)***

**Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. *(Jane Howard)***

**There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of human society are created, strengthened and maintained. *(Winston Churchill)***

**I know family comes first, but shouldn't that mean after breakfast? (*Jeff Lindsay, novelist)***

**In the creative process there is the father, the author of the play; the mother, the actor pregnant with the part, and the child, the role to be born. *(Konstantin Stanislavsky)***

**The only thing more destructive than a tornado is a family. *(Reynolds Price, author)***

**Family not only needs to consist of merely those whom we share blood but also for those whom we'd give blood. *(Charles Dickens)***

**Every family is a war but some are more civil than others. *(Namwali Serpell, novelist)***

**Good families are fortresses with many windows and doors to the outer world. *(Jane Howard, in Families)***

**If you ever start feeling like you have the goofiest, craziest, most dysfunctional family in the world, all you have to do is go to a state fair. Because five minutes at the fair, you’ll be going, “You know, we’re all right. We are dang near royalty.” *(Jeff Foxworthy)***

**Families are like fudge – mostly sweet with a few nuts. *(Anonymous)***

**I believe in large families. Every girl should have at least three husbands. *(Zsa Zsa Gabor, actress)***

**Large families are getting so expensive nowadays that only the poor can afford them. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The family fireside is the best of schools. *(Arnold H. Glasow)***

**We tried tall, good-lookin', smart, nice, great family. Vote for me. We're not going down that road again! *(Sen. Lindsey Graham, in The Washington Post)***

**Giorgio Angelozzi, an 80-year-old widower living outside Rome, was so lonely that he put an ad in the newspaper: He would pay 500 euros a month, or around $665, to any family that would “adopt” him as a grandfather. He was besieged by offers from as far away as New Jersey and New Zealand, before he settled on the Riva family, who live near Milan. Angelozzi eats with his new relatives, helps with the dishes, and assists the children with their homework. “I couldn’t have chosen better,” he said. “Maybe it was just luck, or maybe it was God looking after me.” *(The Week magazine, December 10, 2004)***

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**The great gift of family life is to be intimately acquainted with people you might never even introduce yourself to, had life not done it for you. ***(Kendall Hailey, in The Day I Became an Autodidact)*****

**The great thing about family life is that it introduces you to people you would otherwise never meet. *(Christopher Hitchens, in The Guardian)***

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**When guests stay too long, try treating them like members of the family. If they don’t leave then, they never will. *(Martin Ragaway)***

**A happy family is but an earlier heaven. (Sir John Bowring, in Matins and Vespers)**

**The only rock I know that stays steady, the only institution I know that works is the family. *(Lee Iacocca)***

**There are two things that can destroy a family business: the family and the business. *(Leonard Lauder, former CEO of Estee Lauder)***

**I don’t care how poor a man is; if he has family, he’s rich. (Dan Wilcox and Thad Mumford)**

**No matter how many communes anybody invents, the family always creeps back. *(Margaret Mead, in Society Magazine)***

**Good week for: Modern families, after two gay male penguins at the Berlin Zoo, adopted an abandoned egg and will hatch a chick in early September. Skipper and Ping, who are inseparable, are "taking turns to keep the egg warm," said a zoo spokesman. (*The Week magazine, August 23, 2019)***

**The Christian home is the most important institution in the world. That does not minimize the position of the church and state; they also have been ordained by God. But God places the home first – in time as well as in importance. It is the foundation upon which all other institutions are built; upon it the church and state will either stand or fall. What the homes are, the churches and schools are – and the government will be. Every place where there has been a neglect of home responsibility, there eventually has been a crumbling of the nation. (Wesley L. Gustafson, in Pulpit Helps)**

**You’ll forget at your own risk that the fourth Sunday in October was designated Mother-in-Law Day in a resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One murder victim in five is killed by a relative. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A family is a unit composed not only of children but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold. *(Ogden Nash, in Family Reunion)***

**Let’s give a big welcoming hand to a new member of the board – my wife’s sister’s fourth husband. *(Jim Berry, in Berry’s World comic strip)***

**The family – that dear octopus from whose tentacles we never quite escape, nor, in our inmost hearts, ever quite wish to. *(Dodie Smith)***

**Families are like pieces of art -- you can make them from almost anything, any kind of material. Sometimes they look like you and sometimes they don't. Sometimes they come from your DNA and sometimes they don't. The only ingredient you need to make a family is unconditional love*. (Mitch Albom, author)***

**The biggest family problems are those caused by know-it-all kids and yes-it-all parents. *(Frank Tyger, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Among quarrelsome families, Christmas is the most quarrelsome day of the year. That’s indicated by domestic dispute reports in police records. Next to Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day, which run about even in the quarrelsome category. *(L. M. Boyd)***

****Mankind has become so much one family that we cannot insure our own prosperity except by insuring that of everyone else. If you wish to be happy yourself, you must resign yourself to seeing others also happy.** *(Bertrand Russell)***

**Rene Russo, a former supermodel whose high cheek bones, endless legs and cascading hair led her to movie stardom in films such as In the Line of Fire and Lethal Weapon, found success after a difficult childhood. Her father abandoned the family, and her mother raised Rene and her sister. The memory stayed with Russo, and it wasn't until she was 38 that she married screenwriter Dan Gilroy and had a daughter, Rose. "I didn't want to have kids because I didn't have a happy childhood. But Rose is the best thing that's ever happened to me. I think of myself at her age and I can somehow understand my life better." Russo's experiences have helped her focus on what's important. "I'm thankful for my success in modeling and movies, but fame and money don't bring happiness," she says. "I'd rather stay home with my family and be in my garden." *(Bernard Weinraub, in Redbook)***

**There can be hope only for a society which acts as one big family, not as many separate ones. (Anwar el-Sadat, former president of Egypt)**

**There is no such thing as fun for the whole family. *(Jerry Seinfeld)***

**If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**New shoes hurt most when you buy them for the whole family. *(Bob Talbert, in Detroit Free Press)***

**In most homes, the father is concerned with parking space, the children with outer space, and the mother with closet space. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips and Quotes)***

**There are now more than 22 million "blended" or stepfamilies in the U.S. Another 1,300 such families -- which include at least one child from a previous marriage or relationship -- are formed each day*. (Newsweek, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 29, 2005)***

**A chain’s as strong as its weakest link – but a family’s as strong as its strongest member. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**Nothing ever causes a young man greater surprise than to find that someone has fallen in love with his sister. *(Around Atlanta)***

**On Thanksgiving I found myself with no plans, so I decided to spend the afternoon at a multiplex cinema. After watching my second movie, I noticed that the same group of people was waiting for yet another movie to start. We were all unattached on what should have been a day of family togetherness. So I suggested we all go to one of the mall restaurants for our own Thanksgiving dinner. The bunch of us -- two elderly women, one teenager, two-middle-aged men and a young woman with a toddler -- enjoyed a festive meal with lively talk. As we left, another patron told me, "I envy you and your family. You were having such a great time." She had no idea we were total strangers who became a family, even if just for that one day. *(Nancy Cook, in Reader's Digest)***

**There's nothing like a good family when you're really up a tree. *(Carolyn Hax, in Washington Post)***

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**All unhappy families resemble one another. (*Leo Tolstoy)***

**Each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. (*Leo Tolstoy)***

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**The fellow who leans on his family tree never seems to get out of the woods. (Franklin P. Jones, in Quote)**

**When some people talk about their family tree, they trim off a branch here and there. (Lark Bragg, in Around Atlanta)**

**The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and of joy in each other’s life. Rarely do members of one family grow up under one roof. *(Richard Bach)***

**You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them. *(Desmond Tutu, in God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time)***

**Familiarity breeds contempt – and children. *(Mark Twain)***

**How come a husband and wife in the Soviet Union don’t usually vacation together? Their trade unions, usually different, schedule the vacation time for each. In most cases. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The best vaccination against hatred is a loving family. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**One man told his friend: “When I got married, my wife asked me if I wanted a large family. I immediately answered, ‘Yes!’” “So what happened?” the friend asked. “She immediately sent for hers,” the man ruefully replied. *(Henry Boye)***

**Every family is a war but some are more civil than others. *(Namwali Serpell, novelist)***

**The family you come from isn’t as important as the family you’re going to have. *(Ring Lardner, American humorist)***

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