

The Parenting and Leadership Connection

Then, in a prophetic paragraph that would be quoted for generations within the Adams family and beyond, he wrote: I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture in order to give their children a right to study paintings, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain.

John Adams by David McCullough

John Adams, one of our most important yet least heralded founding fathers had three things which set him apart from all the others.

Inscribed by
↑ Book
↓
1) Vision
2) Marriage
3) Family
4) Construction

④ First, his wife Abigail was without question the foremost of the founding wives, and had times been different, there is no doubts she would have been with her husband in the Continental Congress.

greatly underestimated by the public

Second, the legacy of the Adams family extended far beyond the life of this founding couple. John Adams was the 2nd president of the United States, then in an extraordinary first for our young nation a son followed in the footsteps of his father when John Quincy Adams became the 6th. Additionally, Henry Adams the paternal grandson of John Quincy became one our nations greatest academics, historians, journalists, and novelists.

Not Jefferson
Washington
Hamilton

Adams
were
As
Couple
Partners
in
the Dream

Third, the Adams family were unique because of their vehement opposition to slavery as exemplified by these words written by Abigail to John in the midst of the Revolutionary War.

(Heartsick) searching for an answer to why such evil should “befall a city and a people,” Abigail had pondered whether it could be God’s punishment for the sin of slavery. — interesting view of God???

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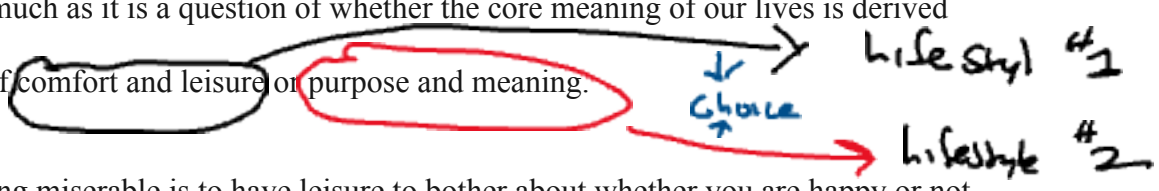
Few individuals, couples, or families make the parent and leadership connection more apparent. Amidst terrible military and political misery, the Adams occupied themselves with what they perceived to be the purpose of their lives, to create a nation where all people could be

more like
America
Reaping
what
sown
↓
Civil
War

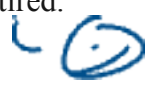
free and build a family that would stand the test of time ([John Adams On The Finer Arts You Tube Clip](#)).

Wow = Built To last by Jim Collins

Their example is an answer to how each one of us must deal with our miserable circumstances during a pandemic. We must understand unhappiness is rarely an issue of circumstance, as much as it is a question of whether the core meaning of our lives is derived from the pursuit of comfort and leisure or purpose and meaning.



“The secret of being miserable is to have leisure to bother about whether you are happy or not. The cure for it is occupation, because occupation means pre-occupation; and the pre-occupied person is neither happy nor unhappy, but simply alive and active. That is why it is necessary to happiness that one should be tired.



[George Bernard Shaw, Treatise on Parents and Children](#)

Where am I going with all of this?

I have been thinking about an irony, a fact contrary to logical expectation, less amusing than frightening. It is easier to become a parent or leader than to obtain a license to drive. Fear not, this is not my foray into public policymaking, the creation of more mandates for human behavior.

What am trying to do is understand is how a couple like the Adams left an imprint on society far beyond any other founding couple, at least in my opinion, but they thus far have no monument in Washington D.C.?

Adams himself predicted this omission. “Monuments will never be erected to me . . . romances will never be written, nor flattering orations spoken, to transmit me to posterity in brilliant colors,” he wrote in 1819, nearly two decades after his single term in office. At his farm in Quincy, Mass., Adams worried that he would be forgotten by history, and for good reason: The

temperamental Yankee could never outshine Washington and Jefferson, Virginia's two-term presidential all-stars — one a brilliant general unanimously chosen to lead the nation, the other the eloquent author of the Declaration of Independence.

[Why Doesn't John Adams have a memorial in Washington?, Alexander Heffner](#)

My takeaway, work on your parenting as you work on your leadership, become the best parent you can be in order to be the best leader you can be, then lead the way you parent and parent the way you lead, because as history travels forward it will be your influence in people not stone which holds the greatest sway over the future.

Please check out my Russ Off The Cuff Podcast for more on Parenting, Leadership, and Freedom.