

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Scene I

Narrator: Tonight we present a musical comedy by the title "A Family Affair." It is about a family with three children. The son is now of age to begin catechetical instruction. As is typical for his age he resists the idea with a little help from his sister who has been confirmed several years earlier. The parents are trying to make the most of the situation, and at least they are talking about the possibilities that their boy may attend confirmation class. The mail has come, and we find the family sitting at the table just having finished their supper.

Mother: (sings "We Got a Letter from the Pastor" to "Get Me to the Church on Time")

We got a letter from the pastor,  
He's asking something more to do,  
We'll need to sit here,  
Work out what's best here;  
Now let me read it all to you,  
"To all the confirmation parents;  
Dear Friends, 'tis Confirmation time  
We will be ready  
To start our study  
On Thursday night right after we dine,  
This is important for growing youth,  
It helps them work out answers to the truth,  
So, please, all you confirmation parents  
If you would only be so kind  
Urge enthusiasm  
To learn catechism,  
And get them to the Church,  
Get them to the Church,  
Oh please do get them to the Church on time."

Son: (sings "Oh, Why Must I Go to Confirmation?" to "How Much Is That Doggy in the Window")

Oh, why must I go to confirmation?  
Oh, why do you want me to go?  
My friends do not have this obligation,  
Oh, why can't the answer be "no?"

Father: (sings "Consider These Things, My Son" to "Consider Yourself" ) 2

Consider these things, my son,  
Consider this part of your heritage,  
We don't want to do you wrong  
So that's the place that you do belong.  
Consider these things, my son,  
Consider this part of your growing up .  
We know that you feel quite strong  
Against attending this all year long.  
But you must Never forget members of our family  
Must at some time be confirmed  
You wouldn't wish be know/a leaf upon the family tree  
That Confirmation you did spurn.  
Consider these things, my son,  
Though displeasure you reveal,  
There'll always be the things in life that must be done  
Regardless of how you may feel.

Son: (sings again "Oh, Why Must I Go to Confirmation?" )

Oldest Daughter: (sings "I know They Were No Craze" to "I Could Have Danced All Night")

I know they were no craze  
My Confirmation days,  
The classes were a bore.  
I didn't learn a thing  
That's worth remembering  
I did not know before.  
I do not know what made it so despising,  
I only know how I did dread  
My Confirmation days  
I'll never sing their praise  
Though good intentions men have had.

Son: (sings "Oh, Why Must I Go to Confirmation?")

Oh, why must I go to confirmation?  
My sister has said it's a bore.  
There must be some things that can be more fun.  
This letter: why can't we ignore?

### Scene II

Narrator: The son has made his preference known. He would just as soon they ignore the whole thing. ~~He is aware of what his sister has said, but he also knows that his father's argument is not the best.~~ Obviously, the parents need to think through their own feelings. In this scene we see them looking back over their confirmation experience wondering how significant it was. Maybe there is not the same need today for this instruction. At the most maybe if the parents want some special education for their son in addition to school maybe they should consider something that will be remembered for a while once it is learned. The children have left the table and the parents are sharing their honest feelings.

Mother: (sing "What Shall We Do?" to "Where Is Love?")

What shall we do?  
Is it fair to push him through  
Something he does not truly want  
To be made to do?  
Can it be  
To treat matters honestly,  
That we do not find a mutual mind  
Upon which to agree.  
What is this contributing?  
To the good of everything?  
Is this just something to shove him through  
Something which he won't do?  
What,  
What shall we do?

Father: (sings second verse)

I don't know what can be done.  
If our son can ever be won.  
My own attitude is not the food  
To be chewed upon.  
My own confirmation days  
Were not just a passing phase  
Of belligerence and resistance  
That I'd outgrow with grace.

Maybe we should offer him  
Lessons so He'll learn to swim.  
This won't be a whim he'll soon forget.  
Something he'll use and yet  
Always will enjoy.  
Always will enjoy.

### Scene III

Narrator: It is Sunday. The family has been to church. The subject for the day was Christian Education and the role of the family in rearing children in the faith. The youngest daughter has brought home a series of charts from Sunday Church School which have the five parts of Luther's Small Catechism. Her teacher has told her they would be a useful tool for the family, and she should encourage her entire family to use them for the sake of conversation especially at the table.

Youngest Daughter: (sings "Look What I Got in Sunday School" to "Wouldn't It Be Lovely")

Look what I got in Sunday School.  
It's a family devotional tool,  
My teacher says useful,  
Oh, does not this look interesting?  
We can use it for every day.  
Learn our lessons more easily.  
Why can't we use this way?  
Oh, would not this be interesting?  
We can talk all about the catechism Luther wrote.  
Maybe then all these ideas from life would be less remote.  
Can we do something with these charts  
'Ere our willing to learn departs  
To teach our seeking hearts?  
Oh, this could be so interesting?

Oldest Daughter: (sings "Trash . . . Glorious Trash" to "Good, Glorious Food")

Trash, glorious trash,  
What you get from churches,  
They spend all their cash  
On such silly purchase.  
Look at what you've got right here  
Is this not amazing?  
Do you think there's any worth  
For this spending?  
Trash, glorious trash,  
Why is this thing needed?  
I surely don't believe  
These need be considered.  
Why must this be fairly fare, you get this in church  
That trash,  
Trivial Trash,  
Mis'erable trash,  
Foolish spent cash.

Mother: (sings "Why, Such a Critic You Are, My Dear" to "Goodnight, My Someone")

Why, such a critic you are, my dear.  
This time you have gone too far, my dear.  
You have no right this thing to distort  
To encourage family support

If you recall what was said today:  
The sermon dealt with the role we play  
As family members we should declare  
This one faith in common we share.

Father: (sings second verse)

That's right, my daughter, that's correct, my dear.  
You mother did truth detect, my dear.  
It would have helped confirmation days  
If the parent's interest was there.  
You need not go this alone, my boy.  
This could be something we'd all enjoy.  
I wish you'd give this an honest try  
And then we will answer your "why?"

#### Scene IV

Narrator: It is now several months later. Apparently the son's "why?" about confirmation has been answered because the entire family has taken interest. The charts brought home by the youngest daughter have served as a good gimmick for over the months they have prompted family discussions on various topics of the Christian faith. What is important is that the family got involved together in the meaning of the Christian faith, and thus not just the boy but the whole family was encouraged to find out more about Christianity. The family has just finished talking about the Fourth Commandment, and the father has suggested that everyone recite together the commandment and explanation and then close with prayer. ~~The family is just ready to say the commandment.~~

Father: I am the Lord your God,

Everyone: Honor your father and your mother.

Father: What does this mean for us?

Everyone: We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and others in authority, but respect, obey, love, and serve them.

Youngest Daughter: (sings "We Give Thee Thanks, O God" to "Now Thank We All Our God")

We give thee thanks, O God,  
For family conversation.  
Through this we daily learn  
Our family's true conviction  
On how through love for us  
You seek us to reclaim;  
On how we are to live  
To glorify your name.

Everyone: (sings verse 3 of "Now Thank We All Our God")

Everyone: (sings the Lord's Prayer to the tune of "My Song Is Love Unknown" )

#### Conclusion

Narrator: The moral to the story, if there is to be one, is simple. The study of the catechism is always a family affair. It is never too late nor too early to use it for discussing the meaning of our faith. The family is still the primary group for religious instruction.