

Bob's Three Minutes in the Chair

Just before I left for Europe, I was invited to sit for "Three Minutes in the Chair" with Dan Winters at WHO TV (Channel 13.) The segment aired on Sunday night, and due to my travel schedule, I asked Dave Barnett, our Director of Communications to sit behind the camera while I did the interview, and then give his thoughts on the segment once it was released:

I had the opportunity to sit "behind the scenes" on the "Three Minutes" recording with Bob Vander Plaats. I paid close attention to the questions asked, as well as Bob's answers. I wanted to see how accurately the segment reflected the original interview. The "Three Minutes" segments are designed to be tougher and harder-hitting, so we expected difficult questions.

Let me start with the editing.

It's odd, I know, but the actual interview isn't really three minutes. It's probably closer to eight or ten. After the recording is made, they edit down the content to around three minutes. I think Dan Winters did a good job of editing this interview. Overall, it generally reflected the original interview discussion, and for that we say, "Well done!"

Second, I do want to use the opportunity to highlight some of the questions that were asked of Bob, and reveal the incorrect presuppositions that were built into them. For example, watch for the hypothetical question at the 1:16 minute mark about giving up the fight for natural marriage if we were "allowed" to win the battle on abortion. That, in my opinion, is a silly question. It builds a ridiculous scenario that is never going to exist. It shows that the questioner doesn't understand the motives of The FAMiLY

LEADER. It assumes that we have built these standards of life and marriage on our own, and therefore there will be some point when we "cave," just so we can "win." Fortunately, Bob handled the question well, and points out that the standard isn't man-made, it's designed and instituted by God.

The second question I want to highlight is at the 2:16 mark. Again, it's a hypothetical scenario about someone considering going to church, and then seeing a "Family Leader rally" and deciding against following after God. Once again, Bob didn't accept the presupposition built into the question – the presupposition that our events are "hateful." It is sad to hear, because I can tell you as one who has been with The FAMiLY LEADER for nearly eight years, and has spent countless hours praying with my fellow team members for our culture and our country, that there isn't a drop of hate in any of us. And, it is exceedingly clear at our events that our love and compassion is for all of humanity. Again, it demonstrates that the questioner doesn't understand the subject at hand. In fact, we have had leaders of organizations who DEEPLY disagree with our beliefs, who have attended our events, and then contact us later to thank us for the lack of hate at our events. I think Bob was correct in his answer, and I believe that there is a greater chance of someone who is "searching" being drawn closer to God as a result of our events. At least that is certainly what we strive and pray for before every event. I think that question was unfair, and leads the audience to assume something that isn't true.

In conclusion, however, I think it is a good video, and I encourage you to take three minutes to take a look at it yourself. What do you think? Jump on over to our Facebook page and let us know!

-Dave Barnett