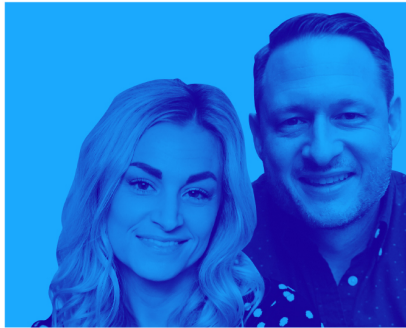


MAN ON FIRE PRESENTS  
**THE COMBUSTION  
CHRONICLES**

**EPISODE THIRTEEN  
GRASSROOTS AMERICAN UNITY**

HOST: SHAWN NASON  
CO-HOST: MICHAEL HARPER  
GUEST: DAVID & ERIN LEAVERTON

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**



## EPISODE THIRTEEN **Grassroots American Unity** WITH DAVID & ERIN LEAVERTON

Like a lot of Americans, Dave and Erin Leaverton struggled with the political divisions they saw and felt after the 2016 elections. From Facebook fights to coffee shop arguments, they couldn't stop wondering, "What would it take to bring unity to America?" Instead of just talking about this question or adding to social media echo chambers, they quit their jobs, put their three kids in an RV, and set out on a year-long journey across the country to search for an answer. Their year on the road is a story of challenge, hope, pain, change, and, of course, a big ol' pile of disruption.



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Erin Leaverton



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### THEMES & INSIGHTS

1. Healing is a process. You can't skip the uncomfortable steps if you want to solve the root problem.
2. Changing perspectives is challenging but necessary. Get out of your own ZIP code and see how others navigate the world differently than you do.
3. You can't understand other people until you understand yourself, even the challenging parts that bias your worldview and perception of others.

### COMBUSTION QUOTES



"Well, if we're going to bring unity to America, we need to understand the vision. And we very quickly began to realize we don't understand the vision. We didn't know that it had to do with our skin color, and our religious background, and all of these sorts of features of our lives, but we knew that we were missing something."



"I liken [the journey] to a fish swimming in water not knowing that it's wet. We began to discover that the water that had kept us healthy and swimming all our lives has caused other people to get sick and die, and it removed all the things that they needed in order to thrive. And we really begin to realize the America we know is not the only America there is."



"There are millions of Americans who have never seen how broken we are and are waking up to a country that they feel is hopelessly broken. And I think that's a really wonderful time to have change."

### RESOURCES

[UNDIVIDED NATION](#)

[THE REUNITED STATES FEATURE DOCUMENTARY](#)

[TULSA HISTORY - 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE](#)

**Shawn:** Welcome to "The Combustion Chronicles" podcast, where bold leaders combined with big ideas to create game-changing disruption. I'm Shawn Nason, founder of Man on Fire, and your host for "The Combustion Chronicles." Throughout this series, we're bringing together the most unique and influential minds we could find to have honest conversations about not being okay with the status quo, blowing shit up, and working together to influence our shared future. We believe that when bold leaders ignite consumer-centric ideas with passion and grit, the result is an explosion that creates a better world for all of us. I'm here with my co-host Michael Harper.

**[00:00:44]**

**Shawn:** So, on this episode, we are speaking with Dave and Erin Leaverton. And over the course of 2018, the Leaverton family of five sold everything they own and set out across the country on a year-long 50 state excursion to listen, learn, and share their journey as they try to answer one question, what would it take to bring unity to America? This question became a critical one as they began their mission to see an awakening of reconciliation and unity in America. They found an undivided nation with the hope that America is ready to explore the offenses that have driven us apart and find the points of connection that link our stories and draw us back to one another. Dave, Erin, welcome to the "Combustion Chronicles."

**Dave:** Thank you.

**Erin:** Thank you for having us.

**Shawn:** So, Dave, Erin, this is really, near and dear, to mine and Michael's heart. And I love this whole thing around the mission to see an awakening of reconciliation and unity in America. So, as you describe this, you know, this journey to explore the root causes of division in America and discover what it would take to heal our divides, how did that become your mission? How did this story begin? Like, as I shared with you briefly, I'm Native American. My father was full-blooded Native American, so, I truly understand what it is to live and to have lived and, before he passed, with a red skin and saw what he went through. I can't imagine, I have two children, you have three, and all of a sudden, you just one day sold everything and started on this journey. Can you share that with our listeners?

**[00:02:37]**

**Dave:** It's a long story and developed over a lifetime, I would say. But there was a few real catalysts that I can look back and these markers in our lives that changed the course of years going on. One was the birth of our daughter, Grace, nine years ago. When she was born, we were told she had Down syndrome. And that changed our entire worldview of what makes someone valuable in the world, what gives somebody worth? And Erin and I both grew up in very educated, professional families. And so, we highly value things like a great job, a career, a retirement savings, maybe even a vacation home and a college degree hanging on the wall. These are the things that give you status and worth in this world. And we were looking at this baby had to decide that we had a child who has a value in this world. And we believe and have

learned over the past nine-plus years living with her is that she is one of the most special people on earth. And it changed our entire way of looking at other people because it's so easy to judge Grace based on what you see on the outside. But the gifts, and the power, and the love that she carries is way more valuable than a college degree. And so that was one of our big moments. And then the other was the 2016 presidential election. I have worked a dozen years in Republican politics as a campaign operative, as a senate staffer, worked in the Republican National Committee, different things like that, and I began to see in that election, which I was not part of, Americans going to war with one another. I saw certain signs of a civil war brewing in a way. I began to see violence in the streets, not just political disagreements, but blood was being spilled. And it just troubled me deeply until one night Erin comes up to me in the kitchen out of the blue during the middle of this campaign where you couldn't turn on your social media feed without just feeling horrible about the world, and she just pops this question out of the blue.

**[00:04:45]**

**Erin:** Yeah. I was looking at him and he was distraught. And I just said, "Hey, if we didn't have kids or mortgage," which are really the two sort of things that I were to think were weighing him down in terms of responsibility, "If those things were lifted off of you, what would you wake up and want to do tomorrow?" And he looked at me without blinking. He said, "I would do something to help bring unity to America," which was kind of a shocking answer, because I hadn't really heard him talk about that or, you know...it just came out of the blue. But it came from someplace deep inside of his heart I think, recognizing, "I helped create this problem through divisive fearmongering, political campaigning, and I need to do something to help be part of a solution to fix it."

**Shawn:** If you could probably see my face right now, you will see a lot of emotion coming from just your opening already. And two things, like we've never talked about this and not have this conversation at all, Dave, or Erin. So, I have a five-year-old son, who is adopted, who has autism. And what that has done to change my life and the way I look at things, I cannot even begin to tell you, so to hear the story of Grace and what happened. And I just had a conversation recently with a very senior executive in a Fortune 10 company around diversity and inclusion always talks about, you know, race, sexuality, religion, but this whole concept around neurodiversity is a new concept. And I had no plans on talking to you guys about this, but it's like my spirit is saying, "Here's someone in common with this." Like, my wife and I, every day wake up to go, "How do we find a place in the world for Kolby where he can thrive and not be ashamed of who he is or what he is?" But yet we just experienced something where we were in a location, on a vacation and he was very loud, and the people right next to us started making fun of him as a five-year-old. And I have that, that we can talk about. And then Dave, I grew up in a political family. I saw what it was like. And, I actually saw politics when it was good, if you can say that, and know that today, my mother would be rolling over in her grave if she saw what was happening in America. So, you guys have this real discussion with each other, and so many people have those real discussions, right, like as couples, but you left your comfort. You left a successful career and all of that and started out on the road for Grace, for America, I

would say probably for your souls even. Talk to us about that. Like, that's just, not many people have the tenacity to do it. Like, you did it.

**[00:08:12]**

**Erin:** Yeah. I mean, it was a process. It wasn't like the next day, after I asked him that question, we got on an RV and took off. I mean, we had a very intense process leading us up to the journey itself of going. The first thing we did was we decided, "Well, if we're going to bring unity to America, we need to understand the vision." And we very quickly began to realize we don't understand the vision. We live a very myopic life that is very insulated from the rest of the world. And we just had this inkling, like, it wasn't even a knowing, it was sort of a suspicion that there was a whole lot out there that we simply couldn't understand because we couldn't see it. And we didn't know that that had to do with our skin color, and our religious background, and all of these, sort of features, of our lives, but we knew that we were missing something. And so, that was enough to begin us on trying to figure out how do we answer this question of what's causing the problem? Right, so clearly, we're divided. Clearly, we're at each other's throats. Clearly, this country is being pulled apart, like, at the seams. But we don't really know why. And there's tons of people, I mean, you've got the media, you've got politicians, everyone weighing in on this, and the big question is, are they right? Are they wrong? Who's right? And we began to realize very quickly that if we wanted to find out the root cause of our division, the only way that we were gonna discover that was experientially learning it by going and asking people all over the country. So, I woke up one morning, and I had this epiphany that... and we're people of faith. You know, we love and believe in Jesus. And I think that when you do, sometimes he gives you radical invitations to do crazy things. He was a radical person. He was a disrupter in the society as well. And so, for us, the invitation was, "Why don't you sell everything and get on an RV and go find out from the people what's going on?" And that proposition was one of the scariest things I've ever heard in my life. My background is interior design. And I felt like I was getting an invitation to step into floor paneling world. And not to mention the fact that it would be a 90% downsize, an enormous financial sacrifice. And there were so many unknowns. How is this going to impact our children? How is this going to impact their education? How is this going to impact our bottom line? There were million unknowns. But we knew deep down in our network, that if we said no to this, we were going to somehow miss our destiny. And so we decided to say yes. And the season that came following that yes is what I call the season of dying, or unraveling, or untethering, where we began to actually walk out the process of not believing that we mattered for the reasons that we have been taught. Does that make sense?

**Dave:** And other people as well.

**Erin:** Yeah. You really can't see other people clearly in terms of their value, until you begin to unpack why you believe you yourself are valuable. And we have no idea. You don't really know what you're believing gets value until you challenge those things. And so, stepping out of the zip code, that's considered a good one, stepping out of the status as homeowner, which is sort of your ticket in America to, you know, the American dream, these are all things that we stepped away from. And we didn't realize that those were things we were checking boxes and



saying, "Here's why I matter. Here's why I matter." And when that started to kind of unravel for us by choice, we suddenly had to look ourselves in the mirror and say, "Wow, I was really believing a lot about myself and why I matter."

**Dave:** And therefore, we're believing a lie about other people around us and why they matter.

**[00:12:21]**

**Michael:** Dave and Erin, this is Michael. And I would love to dig a little bit deeper into your understanding of disruption and all of this because you obviously disrupted your lives to go disrupt something else. And my suspicion is what you may be set out to disrupt at the beginning of this journey changed along the way somehow and could be changing today, which is a part of the disruption process. Right? It's the epitome of empathy, of walking in people's shoes and listening to people. How has disruption evolved for you in all this?

**Dave:** Yeah. Very much. I think, you know, the journey of disruption, if you will, just begins with one step. And we kind of thought we knew where that step was leading, but we didn't know exactly. But that first step was really a theory that our political divisions were tearing our country apart, and if we can just get Republicans and Democrats to sit down together for dinner possibly, we can begin to heal our divides, bring yet just these two opposing factions to see each other as human, we can begin to break down some of those walls. And so that was what really started with that first step. And the very first state we went to our 50 was a state near and dear to you guys, Oklahoma. We went to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and we began learning about the Tulsa race massacre from descendants of people who were impacted by that. We began spending time in Native American reservations around their Osage Nation. We spent a decent bit of time in Pawhuska. And we began to see that these divisions that, for me, were displaying as political were symptoms of things that were much, much deeper and go way, way further back than I thought. And these were divisions in the very foundations of our nation, of the founding of the United States of America, and we are not going to fix these, over dinner. And so, we began just digging deeper and deeper. Just, you know, every time we felt like we found like, "Here's why we're divided," we find something we thought was the answer, just kept on having our minds expanded and blown and humiliated over and over again. By this is a longing question, how did we get this way? We just kept asking that question and we found the answers that were really, really, hard paradigm-shifting answers. That's why we continue to pursue them because we believe in this value that all people in this land no matter their skin color, no matter their religion, no matter their developmental abilities, no matter their legal status are infinitely valuable.

**Shawn:** Powerful, Dave. You know, Michael talked about that disruption, and you talked about how you just kept digging and unearthing all of these, problems. So in this part of walking in empathy, we talked a lot about it and even going from mindsets to heartsets. Like, at what point does it almost feel overwhelming when you realize, both Dave and Erin, that it's not just one thing that has divided us, it's several? And how does that not become so overwhelming

that you just want to throw your hands up in the process, or how do you choose the one to go work on first?

**[00:16:01]**

**Erin:** That's a really, good question. I mean I think overwhelmed would be the perfect word to describe us at any given moment on that journey because it is overwhelming. I liken it to a fish swimming in water, not knowing that it's wet, and suddenly someone pulls a fish out in terms of fishing around and points its face in the water and says, "Look," and you're shocked because you didn't know. And for us, we began to discover that the water that had kept us healthy and swimming all our lives have caused other people to get sick and die and it removed all the things that they needed in order to thrive. And we really begin to realize, the America we know is not the only America there is. There are other Americas. And reconciling those is a process. It is like Dave said, it's a humiliating process because, you have to, unpack what you believe to be true in light of someone else's truth. And that does take an enormous amount of empathy. But the things that connect us are stronger than our experiences. You know, for me, the moment, the cataclysmic shift happened when I sat down with another mom.

**Erin:** So, I sat down with this mother, this black woman in Tulsa in this first stop of our journey. And she tells me about the day that she gave birth to her firstborn child and lost her baby in the delivery room, not because the baby was sick or anything like that, but simply because of lack of care. She was a single mom of color on Medicaid. And I realized decisions are being made, every day, by human beings, whether it's systemic or personal, rooted in this belief that one life matters more than another life. And so, our journey suddenly shifted out of politics into understanding why we believe one human can matter more than another human. Where does that come from? Why do we fuel that with our beliefs? You know, the word racist, I had a picture in my mind of what that looks like. A racist is a person who's shaved their head and is walking around Charlottesville carrying a tiki torch spewing hate. I had no idea that I was a racist. And that's an important step in the process of untethering from these belief systems. It's acknowledging, "Hey, there are beliefs flowing through my veins that are racist in nature." And that really shooked me because I had to start redefining things. You know, just like the day we met Grace, suddenly we are redefining things. Fragility, that's another word that gets people really upset. Well, when you grow up in a dominant culture, fragility is being cultivated in you because everything works. And I'm not saying that all white people have it great, but there are systems in place that help us thrive. And that does cultivate a level of fragility. And so, if you're fragile, I think it's a good thing to go out to the gym and start working out and, like, strengthen yourself. And one of the things you can do to strengthen yourself is take a good long look at these words, like fragility, and supremacy, and some of these things...

**Dave:** Privilege.

**[00:19:19]**

**Erin:** Privilege. Yeah, so these things that have really set some white people off. It's like, "Well, let's look at it. Let's unpack it. Let's not be afraid." And that was really the essence of our

journey is people being patient with us, giving us permission to wrestle with those things, and giving us context through their stories to challenge our paradigm.

**Shawn:** I want to be brave enough here, you know, and transparent with our listener and with us. Dave and Erin, you not knowing the history of Michael and I, we have another colleague, Robin. We are both sitting here going, "Oh, Robin should be on here with us as well." A beautiful soul, black American, who just has this heart you're talking about. But when I hear you sitting here talking about it, I want to call it out for what it is because I think it's something that happened in my life. Michael, I know it's something that happened in your life. You know, I was raised in a conservative Christian way. Michael was raised, you know, more progressive Christian way. But the reality of it is, and I don't want to be this blunt with it, but there's a part of it that there was some brainwashing that happened in each of our lives, your lives, as you talked about. And frankly, I was a pastor for 10 years. And I walked away from the conservative church to do this self-exploration and realized that actually my place to pastor, Dave and Erin, is in the world you're talking about, and it's loving people for just who they are. And I talked about there's two things that the scripture really tells us to do is, you know, love your neighbor as yourself, right? And, if I can do that, and I can accept that, it's not my place in this world to place judgment on anybody. But yet, like you said, Erin, and I loved how you called it out, there's part of me that was a racist and didn't even know it and stuff I still work on today. I look a little bit more crazy, bleached hair, earrings, sometimes blue hair, sometimes pink hair, and I remember the first time being out of this country where I felt racially profiled in an instance point into another country. And I can't imagine. I know what I felt in that moment what people are living and how that feels. And, you know, we actually put in that paper that I shared with you about, one of our team members, you know, she said...and this is Robin we were talking about said, "You need to know that your black team members are not okay in the midst of what's been happening in our world since, you know, COVID and the racial upheavals." You know, you spent the whole year and what can we do, the "Combustion Chronicles," our ecosystem, what can we do to join with you at "Undivided Nation" today to start helping clear this undivide that's happening in our world?

**[00:22:46]**

**Dave:** I think the great thing about it is there are millions of Americans who have never seen how broken we are and are waking up to a country that they feel is hopelessly broken. And I think that's a really, wonderful time to have change. And so, I can really just go back on our journey, in our transformation that had really three pillars. It was experiential, educational, and relational. And so, what we're doing and, you know, would love to connect with you guys any way we can is inviting people on a journey themselves, where they don't have to, you know, sell their home and live on an RV, but maybe for a week or a month or, you know, kind of some period of time can begin a journey that encompasses the experiential, where we're stepping outside of our bubble, outside of our media echo chamber, outside of our friend group, our social structures that give us a sense of security and step into places that have shaped our American story. Let's walk places on the trail of tears. Let's stand on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Let's go in these places and let's talk to the people whose lives have been



shaped by this. That was a huge piece of our transformation and an educational piece and is then giving context to what we're experiencing. Yes, you saw this anecdotal issue in Tulsa, and you learned about black wall street, one of those thriving black communities in American history and how it was burned, and bombed, and terrorized by white people in that town. Let's look at that in the context of across the nation. What else was happening in that 1920s timeframe? Why was this happening? So that educational piece is really important. You know, looking at your own community, why do all the black people live on that side of the highway? Let's learn about red line. Let's learn about how the Department of Transportation was strategically putting in roads to separate people by race. So that educational piece is there. And then lastly, relational, these things that we experienced, that we learn must have a place to land and a face to connect with. So like, for example, when we're living, you know, in Charlottesville, Virginia, where I used to live, I needed to have a connection with somebody on maybe this other part of the town that I was living in. That allowed me then to care if there was something happening, maybe that school wasn't getting funded correctly or something. And I began to realize that these are not blind statistics, and policies, and things of that nature, but these are things that, are impacting my friends. And when your friends all look, think, and act like you do, you're not going to be connecting with a lot of those stories. And so, those three pillars are something that we've been working, on a project and such. But, you know, these problems are so vast and so deep that it's going to take many, many, many people across the country with a similar heart as ours to begin to overcome.

**[00:26:02]**

**Michael:** You know, when we talk about the "Combustion Chronicles," we say it's not for the faint of heart because these are the real conversations we're trying to get at. And so living into that deeper, more difficult conversation, you know, you mentioned earlier that you all had experience with the Republican Party, me being on the other side of the fence, I gotta be honest, in that, when I first started hearing about the conversation, doubt started filling my head because that's part of what we do, right? We're so ingrained in our ideology. We put on our defenses first, instead of keeping that open mind that could move us forward. So, I'm curious to know how you're getting this revised message, this evolving message that you all are working to get into to get out into the world, how do you find it best to do that knowing that so many folks have so many biases without even starting to listen to you?

**Erin:** Well, I think there's sort of a combination of things. The first is curiosity. And like Dave said, right now, people are waking up...and I'm talking about my fellow white sort of middle-class Americans who have lived in this America that has worked really well for a long time, and suddenly they're waking up and saying, "You know, I think we have a problem." So that curiosity is important to spark in this conversation. The next is humility and the willingness to say, "There is a chance that I'm wrong. There's a chance that the things I believed about myself, about my country, about my opponents, that it could all be wrong." And so, coming into a space with those two elements I think is a winning combination. And I have hope because I have seen that over, and over, and over again in the people we've met. Not just the people who, because the people who we met have taught us about their America, but they were also

willing to allow us to have our story too. And so, we are starting, in terms of practical ways to get people on the “on” ramp with this conversation, we've done a couple of things. We've launched our podcast, which is a space where we've invited the actual voices of the humans who changed our lives to tell their own story to an audience, our listening audience. That probably reflect people who come from a background, similar to ours, which is white, conservative, somewhat, you know, maybe evangelical background. And then, the other thing is I've written a book, which I'm currently in the process of getting published, that gets really into the weeds of our journey, both physically and emotionally. The process of traveling across America is our process of being transformed. And, you know, a lot of people out there are calling for white people to instantaneously become anti-racist. And what I say to that is you cannot ask someone to be opposed to something that they don't know exists. And this is not about change, this is about transformation. And shame is the vehicle being used predominantly across our country right now to instigate change. And while that may last a short time and people may say, "Yes, yes, yes, let me check that anti-racist spots," but it doesn't allow for is real transformation, where you go into your own heart, and soul, and mind and unpack the beliefs and the traditions and the deeply held, deeply rooted identities which you're clinging to that are causing this problem. And so those are the two things. And the other thing that we're working on right now that we want to try and make available soon is an e-course that invites people to go on this journey. One of the big, big, big things we believe in is creating a shame-free space to process things like whiteness. There are people out there who have written incredible works, explaining the history of these things like whiteness and supremacy and how it manifested in the past and how it manifests today. But to be perfectly honest with you, I think those works will not see the fruit that we need for real change because the tool of choice in many of these works is shame.

**[00:30:33]**

**Dave:** And many of the great works, the things that are out there are not speaking to an audience because this enormous audience is not looking for this stuff. And so, I think it's really, important to realize that many of my former Republican colleagues are not going to Barnes and Nobles and picking up "How to Be an Antiracist." And so, we've got to meet people where they are, and speak a language that they're speaking, and allow people to be where they are in their process. And I started this process believing that race was not a thing anymore. And so, you know, I've got to continue to have that in my mind. It's, like, everyone is beginning a journey, and I don't care where you begin this journey. If you're as ignorant as I was, there's hope for you and you're welcome to join this journey because it is a journey, you gotta start somewhere. And it frustrates the heck out of Erin and me when so many people expect you to begin your journey on third base of this journey. This is a long process, and we've got to take each step at a time. And we can't skip over these first few steps and say, "Okay, I'm ready to go, you know, take my white privilege, anti-bias test in March at the latest thing." There's a process that you need to go through to get to that point.

**Erin:** I've noticed also, there's just a hierarchy built into this woke culture. It's like it's creating its own hierarchy of human value. And it's essentially saying "Well, if you're not as woke as I

am, then you're not as valuable," which is just completely ironic. It's so important to give people permission and not to shame people because as white people, we still have the privilege to walk away from a conversation on race because, you know, it's not something we have to wake up and deal with and so, we can insulate ourselves and pretend that didn't happen. And so, cultivating a space of true processing without shame I think is the only way to get people on this journey.

**[00:32:41]**

**Michael:** What I appreciate about your words, especially are that it's not just for one side of the fence.

**Erin:** No. It has to be both.

**Michael:** Exactly. That that hierarchy of wokeness is not a helpful context either.

**Dave:** I remember when we were going to the deep south, we were learning, and into our first kind of handful 12, 15 states, and man, it's just, amazing how backwards and broken some of these things are. I can't wait until we cross the Mason Dixon line and get up into the crest of North and see what life is like up there. You know, it's one thing to go in vacation in Vermont or in Boston to go to a baseball game, it's another thing to do what we were doing, living in communities and such. And man, I was so disappointed that when I got into the progressive and woken north, I found classism and racism and many of these different isms and divides manifesting, in many ways, worse than they were in the south because they were masked so often. It's like, hey we're gonna put on a pretty face, whereas in the south, it was a little more overt. And so, you know, the problems of our divides, this is not a Republican right-wing problem. This is a problem that affects a large amount of people.

**Shawn:** Wow, you guys, so much there. And I hate that we have to start to wrap this up. You know, Dave, Erin, you have us, we are here to join this journey with you because it is a journey. And I love and appreciate, Erin, your passion around that, that you just can't expect it to, you know...I think, Dave, you said you can't expect people to be at third base right away with it, right? That this is a big journey happening. So, as we close out these "Combustion Chronicles," we do this little section called the combustion questions, which are three randomly selected questions from an amazing algorithm we use, which is Michael's head. And **[Dave: that is a good one]** so, I'm going to turn this over and let Michael...

**Shawn:** That's right, let Michael ask you your combustion questions. So, go ahead, Michael.

**Michael:** Okay, Dave and Erin, are you ready for your combustion questions?

**Dave:** Yeah.

**Erin:** We're ready.

**Michael:** I love the enthusiasm in your voices there.

**Dave:** Blast away, combust us.

**[00:35:07]**

**Michael:** Question number one, if you joined the cast of "Survivor" and were allowed to bring one luxury item with you to the show, what would that luxury item be? And you each get to answer one item.

**Erin:** Oh, my gosh, that's the most random thing I've ever been asked. Do I have electricity on "Survivor?"

**Dave:** No. It's illegal.

**Erin:** Okay. Cancel that then. I don't know. You go. I don't know.

**Dave:** I'll tell you from living on an RV for a year, I gained an appreciation that I do not need anything to be happy, you know, these creature comforts that I surrounded myself with living in Dallas, you know, a 4,000-square foot house. When I went down to a 400-square foot RV, I realize I didn't need this stuff. So, I'm coming on survivor with a pair of orange Tennessee shorts and I'm ready to go. That's all I need.

**Erin: (Shawn laughs)** Oh, man. That's so good.

**Shawn:** Go big blue. Go big blue.

**Erin:** I guess I would just come on in with my Baylor Bears t-shirt because I'm kind of the same...

**Dave:** That's not original, but okay.

**Erin:** No, it's not original, but I can't think of anything else. **(Shawn and Erin laugh)**

**Michael:** Fantastic. Question number two, what is your favorite day of the week? And you each get to answer.

**Dave:** During COVID, they all kind of seem the same to me. And so, today is my favorite day of the week.

**Erin:** I would say Friday because our family does a little tradition where we bought ice cream Friday. We have a little ice cream and we take turns picking movies because I've gotten into watching movies. And so, we're expanding our movie watching with our kiddos right now and that's been fun.

**Michael:** Love it. All right, final combustion question, what do you think about rocking chairs?

**[00:37:04]**

**Erin:** I think they're magical.

**Dave:** I think all chairs should run.

**Michael:** (everyone laughs) That's a good place to leave it all.

**Shawn:** We will leave it with that. Well, awesome. Dave, Erin, what a privilege this has been and can't wait for our listeners to hear this and your journey on exploring this undivided nation and what you are doing to unify America. So, thank you guys so much. Um, stay safe and be well, and we will talk soon.

**Dave:** Thank you. You too.

**Erin:** Thank you, Shawn.

**Shawn:** Thank you so much for listening to this episode of "The Combustion Chronicles." None of this is possible without you the listener. If you'd like to keep the conversation going, look up Man on Fire on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and at [manonfire.co](http://manonfire.co). Give us a shout. Let us know what you think. And please, subscribe, rate, and review if you like what we're doing and if you don't do it anyways. And remember, always stay safe and be well.