



The Family Friend

A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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A Prayer of One Who is Growing Older

The author of the following prayer is unknown:

“Lord, Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody’s affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind from the recital of endless details-give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others but help me to listen to them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory but a growing humility and lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memory of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a “saint”-some of them are hard to live with-but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Growing old can be a frightening thing. We worry about what we will be like in the years ahead. We hope to be wise and gentle and kind and loving. The only way to be that way as an old person, though, is to strive to live that way every day as a young person.

“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Eccl. 12:1).

—Alan Smith

How Old Are You?

When asked about one’s age, some people lie, some deny, and some camouflage the true number. But anyone who is living is getting older. What can

my attitude be toward increasing age?

Appreciate Individuals, Not Age Groups

It is unwise to make a general statement about infants, pre-schoolers, teenagers, young adults, middle-agers, or old folks. Every person is worth more than all the world-regardless of age (Matthew 16:26).

Youth has the advantage of energy, enthusiasm, optimism, and usually a longer time to develop potential.

Older years bring added happiness if the increased age is accompanied by wisdom, pleasant memories, and service to God. “The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness” (Proverbs 16:31).

Let us look for the best in each person we meet., recognize it, encourage it, and try to develop it regardless of the age of the individual.

We Are Becoming the Person We Will Be

Some day most of us will meet an old person. He may be grumpy, ill-tempered, and hard to get along with. Or he may be gracious, wise, and helpful. But the good news is that I can choose this person that I must live with, because that person

will be me. You and I are becoming the person we will be.

Tennyson expressed it this way:

Ah, what shall I be at fifty
Should nature keep me
alive,

If I find the world so bitter
When I am but twenty-
five?

Live Today, Content

Recalling the “good ol’ days” is not a new practice. “do not say, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’ For you do not inquire wisely concerning this” (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

All of our time and thoughts should not be on the future to the exclusion of being productive today (Matthew 6:34).

We should serve well today, regardless of the number of birthdays. “For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:11).

Years ago, a little boy wrote a man and ended the letter with the statement, “I hope you live all your life.” this can only be done when we thank God for today and today’s opportunities and eliminate the excuses, “I’m too old,” or “I’m too young.”

Rather we can say,
“Thank God, I am alive. I will do what I can today.”

—**Jerrie Barber**

Putting Love Into Words

As we journey through life, we often fail to tell others how much they really mean to us.

This is especially true with those we are closest to. This may occur, because we are too busy or find it difficult to deal with emotional language. It may be that we feel others already know our feelings. You may recall Reba McIntyre’s song about a young lady and her distant relationship with her father who had just died. The song says, “He never told me he loved me; I guess he thought I knew.” Unspoken love or admiration is often never perceived.

One week prior to his death at the First Battle of Bull Run, Major Sullivan Ballou wrote to his wife Sarah, “My love for you is deathless. If I do not return my dear Sarah, never forget how much I loved you nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.” What comfort that letter must have been!

Maybe a bit less more poetic, but just as powerful was the note left behind by Randy McCloy, the lone survivor of the recent Sago Mine disaster. Just hours before he thought that he would die, he wrote to his family, “Anna, I love you so much. To my son, trust in the Lord. To my daughter, stay sweet.” Though he lived, this note must continue to be viewed as a priceless declaration of love.

It is imperative that we take the time and struggle to find the words to convey our love. Whether it is delivered by mail, over the phone, or face-to-face, these affirmations of our love cement relationships and provide great strength in times of adver-

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sity. To whom do you need to express your feelings of love? Is it a parent? A child? Your mate? A close friend? Whoever it is, today is the day for action. Let’s put our love into words.—**Don Loftis**

“Ten Commandments for Husbands”

1. Thou shalt remember that thy wife is thy partner and not thy property.
2. Thou shalt hold thy wife’s love by the same means that thou won it.
3. Thou shalt enter thy house with cheerfulness.
4. Thou shalt not let anyone criticize thy wife and get away with it, neither thy father, nor thy mother, nor thy brothers, nor thy sisters, nor any other relative.
5. Thou shalt not take thy wife for granted.
6. Thou shalt not think thyself are “IT.”
7. Thou shalt not praise thy neighbor’s wife; praise thine own.
8. Thou shalt not keep any secrets from thy wife; secrets breed suspicion and wreck confidence.
9. Thou shalt not fail to kiss thy wife good-bye every morning.
10. Thou shalt not forget through all the years of thy life that thy wife whom God hath given thee is the queen in your home and in honor takes precedence over thee.—**Hugo McCord**