

The Family Friend

Goodbye Summer!



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

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A Grandson's Letter to His Grandfather (Part 2)

Editor's Note: Last month, we printed the first part of a letter from the grandson of Ernest Clevenger, Jr. to his grandfather on the occasion of his 80th birthday. (If you have lost Part 1, contact us and we will get you another copy.) Here is Part 2:

A day or two after he got home I called him and asked him how the fishing went. He said, "Not good, we didn't catch any". I explained how that was impossible, if he followed my directions, because we usually catch over one hundred there. He said he did everything just like I told him. In disbelief, I asked him to tell me exactly what they did and in as much detail as he could remember. He said, "We used Mepps Spinners, wore dark clothes, parked at the gate, walked up to the rocks in the road, then fished all the way back down to the truck". I said, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, you fished from the rocks downstream back to the truck, that's why you didn't catch any, you always fish for trout moving upstream".

To say the least, I took for granted the fact that I had you there to teach me. This was just another stark reminder of how blessed Will and I were that you taught us so much about hunting and fishing and were such a masterful teacher. I know that often times you have a short fuse. Will does too, I'm fairly sure he gets that from you. But, when it came to teaching us to hunt and fish you had an immense amount of patience. I remember very vividly when I was young, and you used to take me hunting and fishing, or even when we were just sitting around your house, I would hammer you with nine million questions. I know I asked many of the same questions over and over again, just to hear your reassuring answer, or in hopes of gaining some new piece of knowledge I missed when you gave me the answer the first ten times. For that, I thank you.

Only in recent years have I come to what I believe is the most important realization about the outdoors. There are very few things in life as exhilarating as shooting a big buck, killing a limit of ducks, or catching a string of fish. But even so, I believe it comes second in my passion for the outdoors. Looking back when we used to hunt together all the time, you

seemed happiest when you were hunting or fishing. This is not to say I think you weren't happy the rest of the time, you just seemed happiest in the quiet woods or fishing next to a babbling mountain stream. I believe the purest reason for this was because you had already figured out something about the outdoors, something that you could not teach me, something that I would have to figure out on my own. Let me explain.

I love duck hunting, fishing on the lake, and other outdoor activities. In fact, at one time I would have said I liked duck hunting more than deer hunting. However, nearly four or five years ago I took deer hunting to the next level when I started bow hunting in the city. This allowed me to hunt closer to home because it was more convenient than ever. I started putting in a lot more hours on the stand. Now I can say that I honestly value deer hunting slightly more than duck hunting, I never gave much thought to why though.

However, about three years ago or so, Ann and I were having a discussion regarding why I liked deer hunting so much when it consisted of going and sitting in the woods by myself. This was

not a fight or an argument; she just thought it sounded really boring. While pondering why I enjoyed this activity so much, it suddenly hit me, coming to a forefront in my mind. I enjoyed the serenity of deer hunting and the inner peace I find sitting quietly in the woods enjoying pure solitary silence. While in the woods there is no one for me to talk to, there is no one to ask me questions, no TV, no radio, and really no interruptions. Sometimes I think about or ponder various things currently happening in my life, but most often I don't think about anything, it's about the only time I get where I don't have to. The hustle and bustle of my busy life along with all its thoughts, responsibilities, and worries simply fade away when I am by myself in the woods. Honestly, it is when I feel closest to God.

While many people have in one way or another contributed to my love for the outdoors and the feelings I undergo while hunting and fishing (and being outdoors in general), I can say, with one hundred percent certainty, that you are the sole person responsible for igniting my passion for the outdoors. Not only did you introduce Will and me to the outdoors, you taught us to hunt and fish in a way that allowed us to figure things out for ourselves giving each of us a greater appreciation and understanding for the arts and what it takes to master them. You very patiently shared your free time and years of experience and knowledge with us and allowed us to ask you thousands of questions, many of the same ones over and over again. Though this letter is an attempt, I cannot begin to ex-

plain how appreciative and gratefully I am for all that you have done for me, and Will. God has truly blessed us both by putting you in our lives. It is my hope and dream that one day I have kids and grand kids and I can pass our passion for the outdoors onto them, and hopefully teach them with as much grace and patience as you have demonstrated to Will and me.

Thanks you for being such a very special person in my life. Our time spent together and the experiences we shared, and will share in the future, will always hold a very special place in my heart.

I Love You,
Jake

Guidelines That Regulate Honesty

Most people who weigh in on the subject of marital communication insist that communication must be open and honest. We would agree with that. When marriage first became a reality, the Bible makes it quite clear that Adam and Eve were to regard themselves as "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

That ideal is compromised when we begin withholding information from each other. Having said that, it's important for us to recognize the fact that open communication is subject to certain boundaries. In Ephesians 4, Paul was specific about what some of these boundaries are. After making it clear that we are to speak truthfully to each other (4:25), he goes on to lay out some guidelines for speaking the

truth.

1. Anger is acceptable, but it must be short term and not allowed to spill over into sin (4:26).
 2. Communication needs to be wholesome (4:29).
 3. Communication needs to be civil (4:29).
 4. Communication needs to be encouraging (4:29).
 5. While you need to communicate honestly, at the same time you must "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice" (4:31).
 6. Honest communication needs to be compassionate (4:32).
 7. Honest communication needs to be forgiving (4:32)
- People often preface their criticisms with, "I'm being brutally honest." If you're "brutally" honest all the time, you're probably going to live a pretty lonely life. Honesty has to be tempered with love. "Is it kind? Is it true? Is it necessary?" Scholars disagree as to who first raised those questions, although some trace it back to Socrates. It doesn't really matter who said it first. The questions provide something of a succinct summary of Paul's teachings in Ephesians 4.

Norman and Ann Bales