

The Family Friend

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

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Walking With Grandpa

When you come to our house, just make plans now to collapse! You have earned it. We have a nice front porch, a huge back balcony and a bunch of high backed rockers. A king-size room with private bath and king-size furniture is waiting.

We can pray and play, work some in the garden), and rest a while. We'll talk and read, and eat and sleep. Just collapse and really start LIVING AGAIN.

Then each day we'll reserve a portion of the day for our special walk.

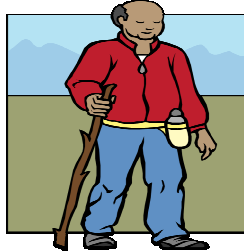
I like to walk with Grandpa, His steps are short like mine.

He doesn't say, "**Now hurry up!**"
He always takes his time.

I like to walk with Grandpa,
His eyes see things mine do;
Wee pebbles bright, a
funny cloud,
Half hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry,
They just don't stop and see;
I'm glad that God made
grandpas
Unrushed and young like me!

I carve out our own walking sticks. Some are extremely short for the little people who come our way. Last Christmas, when our folks came home (and with them, all the grandchildren), we headed out for a special walk. With stick in hand, we marched out the door, the tallest to the smallest. As soon as we made our escape, I began calling my birds.



"Here birds; here birds!"

"What are you doing, Granddaddy?" my oldest grandson inquired.

What a pity! We are in danger of raising a non-bird-calling generation. Can you imagine? A no-bird-calling, no-stick-walking generation?

Well, by this time, my smallest granddaughter was saying (in a slightly tongue-tied voice), "Here birdy, here birdy." You have to get them early, while they're young, unembarrassable, and teachable. Birds don't belong to the mafia; they belong to us.

Paul writes, "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all things are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (2 Corinthians 3:21-23). This is our world, including birds. When John wrote, "Love not the world," he was referring to the sinful, corrupt world that man has made. God's world was made "good" (Genesis 1).

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit (enjoy to the fullest) the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

So go on, love this life! It is the only present life you have. Eternal life is ours to come. Heaven is the eternal home and earth is the repair depot.

When Lucy (psychiatrist) took Charlie Brown up on the hill, Charlie's complaint was simple, "This is a rotten world we live in."

Lucy asked, "Charlie Brown, do you see any other world?"

Charlie said, "Nope."

"Five cents, please," Lucy said.

—Jack Exum, from
The Wisdom Box, pp. 19-21

Blame Attachment Gets Us Nowhere

I'm amazed at how much time, energy, and effort we put into trying to pin blame on somebody else. I'm not naïve about the subject. I'm well aware of the fact either partner in a marriage can behave in a manner that makes life miserable for the other party, but there are no perfect wives, and there are no perfect husbands. When I start pointing the finger of accusation at Ann, I'm fully aware that I usually share equal blame. Blame attachment get us nowhere.

Why are we so quick to blame others - be they spouses, acquaintances, employers, or even politicians - for our own misery? Could it be that we are running away from a deep need within ourselves?

Ken Boa writes an interesting chapter in Joe Gibbs book *Game Plan for Life*. If you are a football fan or a race car enthusiast, you'll gain some great insight about how real men handle life if you'll read the coach's book. But let me get back to Boa.

Boa points out, "As human beings we were created to be loved, first and foremost by God." Isn't that the point John 3:16? "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (NRSV). For some crazy reason, we keep expecting to find love in other situations while ignoring the love of God. Boa doesn't believe that will work.

He writes, "Most human conflict arises when one person demands something of another that the second person is unable to provide. We tend to look to others to provide for us the peace, satisfaction, and contentment - that is, the love - that only God can give. A man may sometimes say to his wife, 'If you really loved me you would....' And when she fails to provide that love (in whatever form), he holds her responsible for a failure that is really his own - failure to rest in the love that God offers him." (Game Plan of Life. 69).

Over the years we've tried to help people with their marriages and we've observed they often don't want to include God in the relationship. Others are willing to allow God a place in the picture, but He's off to the side somewhere. We shouldn't be surprised when we discover that their efforts to settle their differences end in frustration. Sometimes people claim they want to follow God's will in their relationship, but they have developed their own concept of who God is without really consulting scripture. That doesn't work either.

But when we come to the realization that we do a pretty lousy job of managing life and our relationships with our own skills, and we yield ourselves to God, good things can happen. It won't be easy, and you may have to take baby steps to distance yourself from the old negative patterns, but when we decide to let God have control of our marriages, great things can happen. I love this quotation from the late Elton Trueblood.

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"Marriage is a system by means of which persons who are sinful and contentious are so caught up by a dream and a purpose bigger than themselves that they work through the years, in spite of repeated disappointment, to make the dream come true." When God is at the center of your marriage, you can work on it from that direction.

—Norman Bales, *All About Families*, March 29, 2013

News & Notes

PEDOPHILIA REVIVED.

In the 1970s pedophiles organized a group called The Pedophile Information Exchange which was a pro-sex-with-children group. The claim was connected to gay rights movements with the pedophiles claiming their civil rights are being violated. We now see some movement in England to revive this group based upon the fact that they are a minority and thus should have their rights protected. We would suggest this just shows how ridiculous it is to suggest everyone has equal rights no matter what those rights do to others. In a culture that is leaving God's moral standards it is inevitable. Source: *The Week*, March 14, 2014, page 14.

from *Does God Exist?* July/August 2014