



Joe's Rocking
Chair Greetings

PARENTS ARE A BLESSING

While watching commentator today, he suggested that we stop concentrating on the political parties, and instead start to concentrate on one or two things that our parents did that affected us the most. Not what they said or spoke, but their actions. Wow!

I come from a family, oldest, of 11 children from a small town in northern Wisconsin, Antigo. Dad worked swing shifts, first shift for 2 weeks, third shift for two weeks and then second shift for 2 weeks. He was either at work, working a second job or sleeping. He could sleep on a hard porch with a dozen kids running around making noise...out like a rock. My mother was a very good home maker...always there when we got home from school.

She did do some cleaning jobs for other people; in fact, she continued this when I attended Concordia College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, so that she could send me a dollar to two, working for 50 cents an hour. Mom attended church. Dad didn't attend church on a regular basis, but he would always drive us kids to church and come to pick us up when we were done. He also used a lot of foul language and drank way too much and at times would become very abusive. The love of Jesus in church taught me forgiveness.

Then there were the times when we felt the fan belt from a tractor on our behinds. At the time I thought it was crude. Trouble is, I had it coming and deserved much more. Yet their sacrifice of wants and needs for themselves to provide for their children was the way they demonstrated their love for us. Another way was allowing me to get a paper route at age 12, which gave me a steady flow of cash. We knew we couldn't depend on receiving an allowance, in fact I don't even know if we knew what that meant. I remember asking dad for \$2 for the towel fee for gym class. He asked what it was for and I said for Gym for towels. His answer was let Jim pay for his own towels, never did give me the fee.

But now back to the original question. In spite of the challenges that we faced as kids, there are so many things mom & great grandma taught us. Our faith in Jesus is the most powerful. God's forgiveness was the motivation for lessons like honesty, never lie and respect for authorities. Authority of course, included our teachers, police, and the neighbors, almost anyone that was older than us. And yet, we took responsibility for our actions, we were thankful for the blessings we had, sleeping 3 and 4 to a bed kept us warm in the winter months.

I never heard either of my parents tell a lie, except they tried to get us to believe that there is a Santa Claus. One Christmas Eve, I stayed awake long enough to hear the two of them having a barrel of fun setting up the tree and wrapping the gifts they had purchased for us. Each one of us received one gift only, but it was a nice one.

These are the parents God chose for me, so adding this all up, I would say, they showed us "Love" in a way that moves me to thank Him many times for my parents and what they stood for. If I had a choice, these are the two I would pick, Earl and Gloria.

What about you, take a few minutes to think about the question commenter asked. I'm sure that when you think about your parents and the love that they gave you, you too will remember the many blessings that have been given you, especially if your parents are in a close walk with our God.

Jesus did not preach violent revolution against the government like many radical revolutionaries did. He actually instructed people to **respect those put into positions of authority over them**, and to give them their due. Gospel.com.

Husbands love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.
Bible Gateway.com, Colossians 3:19-21 (New International Version)

Joseph