



## Living With Children

By John Rosemond  
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Once again, a reader proves that parenting must be added to religion and politics as verboten subjects for polite conversation. A column I published back in December of 2016 went viral recently—yes, three months later (such things are mysteries to me). In it, I proposed that parents, not children, are the most important people in a family and that the husband-wife relationship, not the parent-child relationship, should be first and foremost.

That is the natural state of affairs, after all. Families were parent- or marriage-centered for thousands of years. Then, in the 1960s, America suffered a parenting revolution in which psychological theory began to dominate and eventually all but extinguish common sense. Out of this revolution came the child-centered family, which is now the norm. Ironically, it also initiated a significant downturn in child and teen mental health which continues to this day.

My critic responded to said column with vitriol that is not suitable for anyone, no matter how crass. I am, she said, a bleeping bleep who should be bleeped out of bleeping existence. Use your imagination. Or, better yet, don't.

It will not matter to said reader or anyone of her ilk, but parenting outcome research confirms my proposition. Except during infancy, early toddlerhood and critical illness, it is not in a child's best interest to be at the center of attention in his/her family. The child may like and enjoy that state of affairs, but then children also prefer ice cream over broccoli. Rational people do not generally care what children like and don't like.

Another way of saying this is to propose that the roles parents should occupy, primarily speaking, are husband and wife; or, in the case of a single parent (as was my mother for most of the first seven years of my life), an adult whose life, from her child's vantage, is interesting and therefore worth

You are not interesting to a child who is the focal point of your attention. Instead, the child will take you for granted. He will express his sense of entitlement by being demanding, ungrateful, disrespectful, and often obnoxious in ways perhaps your tunnel vision does not allow you to see (but others readily can).

A child-centered family is one in which the adults occupy the roles of daddy and mommy more than they occupy the roles of husband and wife. When you are daddy and mommy, you are paying attention to and doing things for your kids. When

you are husband and wife, you are paying attention to first things and your kids, quite naturally, will pay attention to you. That condition is essential to establishing parent authority, effective discipline and successful emancipation. Contrary to the post-1960s myth, children (again, excepting the very young) do not need a lot of attention. They need, instead, adults in their lives who are worthy of being paid attention. Respect for others is worth far more than high self-esteem.

There is nothing that puts a more solid foundation of security and well-being under a child's feet than the knowledge that his parents are in a permanent relationship. To pre-empt the knee-jerk: That is not to say that a child raised by a single parent is insecure. If you are single, then please and by all means be an interesting person, a person who lives a full, rich life right in front of your kids. My mother did exactly that.



### The God Who Never Leaves

When I was seven, I ran away from home. I'd had enough of my father's rules—I could make it on my own, thank you very much! I didn't go far. At the end of the alley I remembered I was hungry, so I went back home.

Did my dad know of my insurrection? Fathers usually do.

And she was most definitely not at my beck-and-call. She even occasionally said to me "John Rosemond, you do not need a mother right now and I am not going to be one."

It's impossible to develop a sense of entitlement under those circumstances.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: [johnrosemond.com](http://johnrosemond.com), [parentguru.com](http://parentguru.com).

Was I still his son? Apparently so. If you'd asked my father, "Mr. Lucado, your son says he has no need of a father. Do you still consider him your son?" What do you think my dad would have said? I don't have to guess at his answer. His commitment to me was greater than my commitment to him. So is God's! I can count on him to be in my corner no matter how I perform. You can too!

This Max Lucado devotional offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life. Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.

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## Obituaries



### WILLIAM "BILLY" ROSEMOND MCNEER

William "Billy" Rosemond McNeer, 80, peacefully passed away March 21, 2017 at Lexington Manor surrounded by his loving family. He was born February 6, 1937 in Lexington, MS. Billy was the beloved husband and best friend to his one and only love of 53 years, Faye McNeer of Lexington.

Billy is survived by his loving wife Faye; his four children, Billy McNeer, Dennis McNeer, Amanda Rogers and Sherry Goss; daughter-in-law Carol McNeer; sons-in-law, Chris Rogers and William Goss; grandchildren, Ryan Rogers, Nick Rogers, Robbie Rogers, Anna Leigh McNeer and Ryder Goss; brothers, Carlton McNeer and wife Stella and Mike McNeer; and sister Delaine Haney and husband David. He is preceded in death by his parents, William "Buster" Clyde McNeer and Adele McNeer; brother William Clyde McNeer; and sister Lena Beth McNeer.

Billy served 12 years in the Mississippi Army National Guard where he achieved the position of Mess Sergeant. In the early 1960's, Billy opened Quality Used Cars. In 1964, Billy went to work for Holiday Inn in Houston, TX as a Master Chef. In 1965, Holiday Inn sent him to culinary school where he graduated. In 1968, Billy and Faye opened the Triangle Inn in Pearl, MS. Billy went to work for Admiral Benbow Inn in Jackson, MS in 1967 as the Executive Manager of the kitchen and restaurant. In 1970, Billy and Faye returned to Lexington where he found his love of 18 wheelers. He had many adventures in the trucking business and in 1972, he added an additional business to his trucking company, when he purchased the Amoco Service Station in Lexington. Billy also worked on one of the country's largest projects in the early 70's. He worked on the Alaska pipeline from 1973 to 1976. Billy worked in many areas of the trucking business over the years by hauling everything from grain to logs, to house trailers, to lumber and many other materials. Billy retired in 2007 and spent the last 10 years at home with his wife Faye.

Billy will be remembered as the loving husband, father, Papaw and friend that we all knew him to be. He will be forever remembered as the tremendous family man we all knew and loved.

### CAREY L. SEAMSTER

Mrs. Carey L. Seamster, 60, passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at her residence in West, MS. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Long Branch Baptist Church in West. Burial will be in Long Branch Cemetery. Winters Funeral Home in Kosciusko is handling the arrangements.



### JANIE FAYE MCNEER PALMERTREE

Janie Faye McNeer Palmer-tree, 83, of Conroe, TX passed away March 21, 2017. She was born in Lexington, MS on November 18, 1933.

Janie graduated as Valedictorian from Lexington High School. She also attended Nursing and Business School. Janie worked at the USPS and retired as the Postmaster of Tomball, TX. She was a part of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) and held executive positions.

Janie had a passion for sewing, painting, crafts, puzzles and card playing, traveling, her family tree and spending time with family.

She is survived by her children, Brenda Arrington, Mitchell Palmertree, Amanda Frazier; grandchildren, Dr. Stephanie Evans, Summer Palmertree, Triston Frazier; and great grandchildren, John "Grayson," Chloe and Brooks.

Visitation was held on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at Cashner Funeral Home in Conroe, TX from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The funeral service was held Monday, March 27, 2017 beginning at 12:30 p.m. with interment following in Garden Park Cemetery.

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### POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holmes County Herald has been authorized to announce the following candidates for office in the May 2, 2017 Primary Election.

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