

Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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In Raleigh, North Carolina, on the backside of the Department of Education building is a structure known as the Education Wall. Completed in 1992, the EW was conceived and created by artist Vernon Pratt and writer Georgann Eubanks. Engraved into the polished red granite are various messages that presumably reflect my home state's commitment to children.

One of the messages reads "YOU ARE A CHILD YOU

ARE SUITABLE TO BE AWED (sic)." Interestingly, featured on the North Carolina Public Schools Facebook page is this quote from Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

The only conclusion one can draw from this inadvertent juxtaposition is that education bureaucrats in North

Carolina are confused. On the one hand, they are in awe of children; on the other, they believe children should be taught humility. Reverend King could certainly tell them that a child who believes he or she should be the object of awe is also a child who is unteachable. The awesome child, like the awesome adult, does not possess suitable capacity for self-criticism. The awesome among us do not believe they are capable of error, moral or otherwise.

I am by birth and residence a North Carolinian. Thanks to the EW, I now realize that I was cheated of my birthright by knuckle-dragging miscreants who did not think I was awesome. In fact, I distinctly remember both of my grandmothers telling me, on separate occasions, that I was a "very bad little boy." (Once upon a time, when child mental health was not, as today, in a state of crisis, adults told children the truth about themselves.) I was informed of my badness not to make me feel worthless, which it did not, but to correct, which it did. My grandmothers, I was sure, loved me. When a person who loves you tells you, as a child, that you are bad, they are telling you because they love you.

I even remember my grandmothers' tone. It was a combination of sadness and hope. They were not angry with me. They were grieving for me. Despite my inability to articulate any of the above, I understood and resolved to do better. One day, I hope to live up to their standards.

Another saying on the North Carolina Education Wall informs us that "LOVE WORKS WHERE DISCIPLINE FAILED." This is not philosophy. Philosophers, generally, know that sounding right and being right are often two different horses of two entirely different colors. This is pulp fiction. Unlike the EW's implication, love is not the antithesis of discipline. In the proper raising of a child, both unconditional love and unequivocal discipline are undeniably neces-

How to save \$100,000 on your next home

Courtesy of Dave Ramsey.com

When you're planning to buy a home with a mortgage, it's natural to focus on how much your monthly payment will be. After all, financial expert Dave Ramsey recommends you keep your payment at 25 percent or less of your monthly take-home pay.

As you're browsing homes with your real estate pro, it's also natural to be tempted to get a 30-year mortgage rather than a 15-year mortgage. An \$800 monthly mortgage payment could buy you a \$120,000 home on a 15-year mortgage, or a \$185,000 home on a 30-year mortgage. That's quite an upgrade in home!

But, while the difference in price is \$65,000, you'll end up paying way more than that over 30 years.

With a 15-year mortgage on a \$120,000 home, you'll pay a total of \$145,350 — \$25,350 of that is interest on the loan. With a 30-year mortgage on a \$185,000 home, you'll pay a total of \$292,177 — \$107,177 of that is interest. That's twice as much total and more than four times the interest.

How to pay \$100,000 more for the same home

If that's not enough to convince you that a shorter-term mortgage is worth it, let's look at the numbers a differ-

ent way. Instead of comparing two homes at two prices with the same payment, we'll look at one \$200,000 home with two different terms and payments.

With a 15-year mortgage, the payment on a \$200,000 home is \$1,330 a month. We're assuming our homeowner made a 10 percent down payment, and got a 4 percent interest rate. The

payment on the same home with a 30-year mortgage is \$860 a month, but 30-year mortgage rates are almost always higher than rates for 15-year mortgages. If we bump the interest rate up to 4.75 percent, and we all know that could happen, the payment jumps to \$940 a month.

A \$940 payment fits into most people's budgets a lot easier than \$1,330, but again, the extra interest you pay on a longer-term mortgage is mind-boggling. You'll pay nearly \$100,000 more for the same home with a 30-year

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love does not succeed where discipline fails. If one fails, both fail. The Education Wall is located in North Carolina, but the question becomes: Does it reflect a more widespread contagion? Do American educators and educational bureaucrats truly believe in the sort of unmitigated drivel that adorns the EW? If so, then we are all in a heap of a mess, as the authentic North Carolinian might say.

A wall full of my grandmothers' parenting aphorisms would have been a far better use of taxpayer money. Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

mortgage than you would with a 15-year mortgage.

The wrong mortgage can cost you future opportunities

Clearly, a 30-year mortgage is much more expensive than a 15-year mortgage. But what about the opportunity cost of a longer-term loan? What could you do with an extra \$100,000 and 15 more years of being debt-free?

Consider the impact of that money on your retirement plans. Once your 15-year mortgage is paid off, you could begin investing your \$1,330 payment for retirement. Over the next 15 years, that would add nearly \$560,000 to your nest egg. Let that money ride for five more years, and you'd have an extra million dollars for retirement!

Or maybe your retirement is in good shape once you've paid off the house and you're completely debt-free, but now you've got a kid heading to college. Your payment would go a long way toward cash-flowing expenses that aren't covered by scholarships, grants and part-time work.

Freeing up that money 15 years sooner provides plenty of opportunity to invest, travel, and give. Don't let the temptation of a lower payment, or a bigger home, lure you into giving up those opportunities!



Calendar of Events

DEADLINE:
4 P.M., FRIDAY

MVSU ALUMNI ASSOC.
The Mississippi Valley State Holmes County Alumni Chapter will host its 16th Annual Green and White Scholarship Banquet on Saturday, February 10 at 6 p.m. in the Lexington Multi-Purpose Complex Building.
1-18,25

ST. JOSEPH C.O.G.I.C.
St. Joseph C.O.G.I.C. in West will host the Forrest's Family and Friends Day program on Sunday, January 28 at 1:30 p.m. with Sunday school at noon.
1-18,25

TRINITY M.B. CHURCH
Trinity M.B. Church will have its Annual Black History Program on Sunday, February 4 at 11 a.m.
1-25;2-1

LEXINGTON LIBRARY
An Aging and Mental Health Awareness Seminar will be held at the library on

Wednesday, January 31 at 11 a.m. hosted by UMMC Holmes County Intensive Outpatient Program.
1-18, 25

AMERICAN LEGION
The American Legion Post # 202 will present a fifteen minute video entitled "Mississippians in Vietnam" on Sunday, January 28 at 4 p.m. in the building next to Fred's, all veterans are welcome.
1-18,25

WEST GROVE M.B.C.
West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will host its Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 3 at 9 a.m.
1-18,25

BEULAH BAPTIST
Beulah Baptist Road Church in Lexington will have a garage sale on Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Proceeds go to help replace air conditioning at the church.
1-25;2-1

West Hill Water Association
will hold its
Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the building next to Fred's at 303 Yazoo Street Lexington, MS

All members are encouraged to attend.

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. This is the time for our members to ask questions, voice their problems, and also time to elect board members.

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Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	Mar 18	2018 Jan	4.26	-0.52	3.74	0.03
Wheat	Jul 18	2018 July	4.52	-0.32	4.20	0.03
Milo	Dec 18	2018 Aug-Sep	3.86	-0.26	3.60	0.00
Corn	Mar 18	2018 Jan	3.52	0.10	3.62	-0.01
Corn	Sep 18	2018 Aug	3.77	-0.04	3.73	0.00
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	10.01	-0.30	9.71	0.04
Soybeans G'wood	Mar 18	2018 Jan	9.84	-0.01	9.83	0.07
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	10.01	-0.12	9.89	0.05
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	10.01	-0.20	9.81	0.05
Rice	Mar 18		12.180			-0.025
Rice	Nov 18		11.660			-0.010
Cotton	Mar 18		83.41			-0.010
Cotton	May 18		83.78			-0.010

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