

Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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Q: We have ten grandchildren, spread between three of our kids. They all live within an hour’s drive, so we see them often. We want to be involved in their lives and to be good influences. Our problem is with the parents. None of them are receptive to any advice or information we try to give or share. At least four of the grands have major behavior problems, for example (and all of them lack proper manners). It’s obvious to us that the real problem is parents who don’t know how to exercise effective authority, but any suggestions fall on deaf ears. One child has been diagnosed with an “oppositional” disorder. The parents have been told he can’t help behaving the way he does, but he’s no problem at all when he’s with us,

even for an extended stay. This is beginning to cause tension (and some conflict) among us. What should grandparents do when children won’t listen to good advice?

A: One option is for you to pack up and move. I’m serious. Your fundamental complaints are echoed by grandparents all over the USA. Now, people don’t ask my advice if everything is hunky-dory, but the number of tales of grandparenting woe I hear as I travel the country strongly suggests that such distress is ubiquitous.

I think a good part of the problem is a lack of respect for one’s elders. Young people today don’t seem to grasp that respect means more than simply being polite; it means honoring the wisdom that usually comes

with age. Certainly there are grandparents who don’t qualify, but most people older than 60, myself included, will tell you they’ve acquired more wisdom in the last ten or so years of their lives than they did in all the years prior.

Progressivism – the philosophy as opposed to the political bent, albeit they are related – dominates American thought these days and has since the 1960s.

It is anathema to a progressively-minded individual that tradition might trump modernity (at least occasionally), that an old way of doing something might be better than the new way, that a longstanding idea might be more correct than a recently-minted one. These days, parenting progressivism rules. Those of us who represent the old way are often simply tolerated by the young. Often, we are regarded as if we’re all teetering on the brink of dementia.

The example you give of

your “disordered” grandchild is emblematic of the problem. Even though the notion that certain childhood behavior problems arise from such things as “biochemical imbalances” and “brain differences” has not been (and I don’t think will ever be) proven, the new explanation trumps the probable truth: to wit, the child in question has not been properly disciplined. The fact that the child is reasonably well-behaved when his parents aren’t around unequivocally disproves the pseudo-scientific mumbo-jumbo. Unfortunately, when it comes to children, pseudo-science trumps common sense these days.

So, back to your original question: I hate to be the pessimist – it’s really not my nature – but no grandparents have ever told me that something they said to the parents of their grands caused a lightbulb to come on and that everything’s been just peachy keen ever since. Not being valued for your wisdom is painful, for sure, and the likelihood of the parents in question ever apologizing for their disrespect and beginning to listen to you is slim to none.

You can keep your mouth shut. You can wait patiently, hoping the parents will someday come to you in desperation. You can say something like, “You know, we have some experience raising kids and are more than willing to share our experiences – what worked and what didn’t – with you anytime you feel the need.”

Or, you can pack up, move away, and enjoy to the fullest the years you have re-



For many of us there is a lull in hunting right now. Deer season has closed except in the deep south and I’ve never been much of a predator hunter.

I mostly rest this time of year, lick my wounds, and put most of my gear back in its place. A hog hunt may be in the near future, but otherwise I’m thinking about crappie and walleye, and even a big catfish. But none of these will require too much preparation or effort. I plan on coasting for the next little while, while I count down the days until Spring. The late Fall and Winter here has been really wet and dreary. I’m hoping the next few weeks will be unseasonably warm and dry.

I’m not putting much faith in that, however. I’ve always tried not to complain too much about the weather, but that has been put to the test this year. Ugg!

A week of sunshine would soothe my soul right now. Until then, I’ll have to imagine, or remember, the sun.

In more important areas of life, there are lengthy periods of time that seem to be unusually discouraging and depressing. Sometimes it comes from a chain of unfortunate events, and other times, it’s one bad occurrence that seems to linger on.

During that season it seems as if both the power

and presence of God has left our side. What was once near and vibrant has been lost to a continual feeling of abandonment and divine apathy. We feel we are left to ourselves. What do we do?

It’s at those dreary days that we must remember the sun of the former days – not to go back and linger with regret or to go back and live in the past. But we are to go back and remember several better and positive truths. We’re to remember that while the clouds may hide the sun, they cannot destroy it. It hasn’t moved, and neither has God. We are to remember there have been former days where we were extremely blessed by periods of unseasonable sunlight and warmth. And if God gives extended blessings, we must trust him when there are extended periods of difficulty. We are to remember, there were other times of dreariness, but eventually the sun broke through and consumed every drop of despair.

These periods in our lives are actually not periods. They are not the end. They do signify the end. The periods of lengthy gloom are part of the sentence that is your life and mine. And as long as God has the final word, the Son will eventually break through every cloud and reveal He has never moved.


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Auditor’s office to improve efficiency and eliminate waste at department of transportation

Press Release

This week the Office of State Auditor Shad White launched a study to identify savings and cut fat at the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). The Auditor’s office will hire private sector experts to conduct the analysis with guidance from the Auditor’s office.

The study began with the release today of the Auditor’s request for proposals (RFP) to all qualified consultants interested in conducting the performance audit.

“My office is pleased to begin this analysis of places to save money in road and bridge spending, and I’m thankful that the Legislature and Governor placed their trust in my office to identify any waste in infrastructure spending. We’re ready to step up to the challenge,”

said Auditor White.

During a recent special session, the Mississippi Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2018 authorized new spending by the Department of Transportation and required the Auditor’s office to oversee the completion of a performance audit of MDOT. The Auditor’s RFP scope states that the performance audit could examine, among other things:

- whether engineering fees charged to taxpayers are excessive;
- whether road and bridge projects are being effectively managed to avoid project delays and cost overruns;
- whether project selection can be improved;
- whether the most cost-effective vendors are being chosen;
- and how MDOT performs compared to other states or private sector in-

rastructure companies.

The request for proposals is the description of the scope of the performance audit. It begins the formal process for outside experts to bid on the contract to conduct this audit. The Auditor’s office will accept proposals from prospective bidders until March 4, 2019, at 2PM CST. After selection, the consultant and Auditor must submit the report to the Mississippi Legislature no later than December 31, 2019.

White said, “My goal is to find a recognized company with private sector expertise in rooting out waste. Our hope is to spread the word about this critical project to attract as many bidders as possible and find the best partner available.”

The request for proposal document can be viewed online or can be obtained by