

Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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Are parents responsible for the sort of people their children become? That’s this week’s question, and the answer is no, albeit equivocally.

Several parents have recently written me bemoaning the lifestyles their adult children have chosen to lead – lifestyles that feature addictions, criminality, and flagrant irresponsibility. (The operative word in the previous sentence, by the way, is chosen.)

“What did we do wrong?” said parents ask, to which my answer is “Something, but so does everyone.”

As is the case with every human endeavor, the raising of a child is, never has been, and never will be done perfectly. Furthermore, every human being comes into the world bearing unique traits. Lessons from one’s own childhood as well as prior childrearing experience can be of assistance, but in the final analysis, one learns to be a proper parent to Billy or Susie by raising Billy or Susie. There are general commonsense principles, but there is no one-size-fits-all formula.

Parenting is, in other words, a trial-and-error process. Everyone who attempts it, therefore, will commit error. The question becomes: Did the errors made by a certain parent or set of parents determine the trajectory of their child’s life from beginning to end?

The notion that parenting is deterministic was proposed by Sigmund Freud (1856 – 1939), the so-called “Father of Modern Psychology.” It is because of Freud’s proposition that most therapists attempt to link an individual’s “issues” to features of his or her childhood. Supposedly, the

fact that a person’s father was an alcoholic and abandoned the family explains said person’s chronic codependency, for example.

The problem, of course, is that for every codependent with an alcoholic parent there is one whose parents were emotionally healthy people. Dysfunctional people raise functional people, and functional people raise dysfunctional people.

When all is said and done, parenting is certainly an influence, but it is impossible to predict, based on a person’s childhood experiences, the direction his life will take. When all is said and done, a person’s present life circumstances are a matter of the choices he’s made, also known as free will. Without free will, there is no personal responsibility; and without personal responsibility, everyone is helpless and hopeless.

The further problem is that some adults seem to thrive on blaming their parents (or a parent) for their shortcomings. The individuals in question construct soap operas out of their childhoods in which they are victims of their parents’ villainy. That may be the most destructive form of irresponsibility. It often turns into a life sentence.


So, if your adult child is dysfunctional in some way, you may or may not have been an unwitting contributor (people who read parenting materials do not tend to be witting in that regard); nonetheless, it is your adult child’s job to fix it, not yours.

Take it from the horse’s mouth, there is nothing so liberating as coming to grips with personal responsibility.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



Milton Smith passed recently. He had been sick. Keep his dad, Mr. Earnest Lee Smith, and the rest of the family uplifted in prayer. Also uplift the Meeks and Meekies in prayer. They are cousins to Milton.

Nick Walden’s dog saved his life. One night his dog was making a lot of noise. Nick took a flashlight and went outside to see what was going on. When he searched outside, he found a rattlesnake. His dog jumped between him and the snake. He went back in his house and got his gun then shot the snake. But the next morning the dog was dead. Apparently the snake bit the dog.

A lot of churches have reopened and some never closed. But members remember you are supposed to check people’s temperature before they are allowed to enter the church. Sanitizer should be at the door to clean your hands. The

pastor and members should wear a mask. It’s better to be safe than sorry.

CLASSIFIED ADS

The Holmes County Tax Assessor/Collector’s Office is now accepting resume’s for a Deputy Collectors position. Interested persons should bring their resume to Linda Rollins, Holmes County Tax Assessor/Collector. 1 Court Square Lexington, MS 662-834-2865

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) Plumed military cap
- 6) French clerics
- 11) Wrestling surface
- 14) Someone from Cedar Rapids
- 15) Purge, Pied Piper-style
- 16) Urban attachment?
- 17) What an actor may take
- 19) Bobbsey twin
- 20) You might put some money in it
- 21) Not well
- 22) Fury
- 23) Happen as planned
- 27) Mark the boundaries of
- 29) William Tell's canton
- 30) Certain saucers
- 32) Perfume with a "verboten" name
- 33) Bestowed title
- 34) Dating from
- 36) Country singer LeAnn
- 39) Smart-alecky
- 41) Wise saying
- 43) Good whack
- 44) Mariner's vessel
- 46) Fall into ____ (be ensnared)
- 48) Is for two?
- 49) A crucifix
- 51) Words before "goal" or "course"
- 52) ____-X
- 53) Was a sleazy salesman
- 56) Undersea weapon
- 58) Clothes line
- 59) Aussie coin critter
- 60) All-terrain vehicle, briefly
- 61) Geneticist's study
- 62) Place for furs
- 68) A little energy
- 69) Where naval battles are fought
- 70) Hollywood award
- 71) Game cube
- 72) Diminutive
- 73) Maintains

DOWN

- 1) "Not my spelling error" notation
- 2) Weed-whacking tool
- 3) Barley beard
- 4) Couric of TV
- 5) Burdensome
- 6) Promos
- 7) Wager
- 8) Alternative to a ponytail
- 9) "Bald" baby bird
- 10) Exemplary
- 11) Lowest legal amount of pay
- 12) Asteroids maker
- 13) Article of faith
- 18) Fiber used in basketmaking
- 23) Crescent features
- 24) A college at Oxford
- 25) Reverse representation
- 26) Henry or Peter of film
- 28) Sacred bird of the pharaohs
- 31) Sings like Fitzgerald
- 35) Florida marsh bird
- 37) Dog-____ (like some used books)
- 38) Anagram of "notes," aptly
- 40) Implement
- 42) Go to a diner
- 45) Stinky animal
- 47) Had some food
- 50) Lower in rank
- 53) Use an office machine
- 54) Artist Matisse or Rousseau
- 55) Edible seaweed
- 57) In and of itself
- 63) Family room
- 64) Two cents worth
- 65) Biggest heart?
- 66) Continuity problem
- 67) Hospital trauma centers

ACT YOUR?

By Clyde Dobey

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To you hard-headed, non-caring people that do not wear a mask; in the Bible read Numbers 21:1-9. Compare wearing a mask to looking up at the brass serpent (snake).

CLASSIFIED ADS

3 CEMETERY PLOTS

in Odd Fellows Cemetery Lexington, known as Lot No. 606 in the 1967 Addition. Includes a Trust Receipt, No. 376, held in trust by the City of Lexington with the interest to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of Lot 606. Call Bruce Hill at 662-417-9944 to arrange for transfer of Trust Receipt and warranty deed for Lot 606. \$1500 total. 2-1ftm

HANDYMAN NEEDED

for yard work (Clean chicken pens, pickup limbs and small fence repairs). Call 662-834-3215.

7-16,23p

Send in your news!

The Holmes County Herald welcomes reader submissions for news, events and photos for publication in our weekly newspaper. To submit items, email to: hcherald@gmail.com

Please include all pertinent details, dates, location, name of the event or occasion, all associated people, organizations or groups, reason for event or occasion and NAMES OF ALL PEOPLE PICTURED IN ANY PHOTOGRAPH.

We look forward to hearing from you!

-Holmes County Herald Staff