

“What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck.”
Proverbs 1:9 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 1:8-19

I hope to God that I was able to pass on this idea of a crown of grace and a chain of honor for all my kids. I was NOT a good boy when I was a youth. I stole, vandalized and just caused general havoc in my little neighborhood on Green St. In Los Alamitos. But I endeavored to make that different, both with my adult life and my parenting. I mean, anyone who knows me, knows that my wife, Robin would NOT have it any other way. She's an incredible rule follower and “do what's right because it's right” kind of person and parent. She had a hard time figuring out WHY people would do wrong! Especially with things as basic as lying, stealing or damaging others property. I would get quite a severe glare when I told her that I used to “enjoy” it or never felt guilty and that I can relate to youth who think similarly. I know how creepy that makes me sound, but I'm just being honest. Robin had the hardest time wondering why people purposely sinned at all! She felt like she could understand or even justify “accidental” sins or sins of omission, as our Catholic friends would say. But direct sins of commission? No way. I'd like to think that God transformed my life in such a way that I did not continue my nefarious ways, and for sure didn't pass on such deplorable acts (as acceptable) to our children. So our adult kids DO have a certain crown of grace and chain of honor - it is now part of the Garvin “code.”

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,
From a legacy perspective, I am so very thankful for your grace and mercy extended to me. I believe that my life ended a very long cycle of chaos and poor life choices. My parents and grandparents weren't “criminally” bad, they just did life on their terms and left you out. I made the decision to keep you the center of my life and my future.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root