

“Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children.” Proverbs 17:6 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 17:5-10

There are a lot of proverbs dealing with family issues. Most of them are about the children's behavior shaming or dragging their own parents by their decisions and lifestyle. I'm not aware of too many grandparent proverbs. This one speaks about the grands and how it brings a crown to them. In today's culture it's a tough topic to write about. Children of the 80's and 90's have delayed relationships, marriage and definitely having children. Where as previous generations were married in their early twenties and even further back, couples were in their late teens! Now, those same adult children "may" get married in their late twenties or even their thirties. And the decision to have children has been delayed well into their thirties. We had our last child before Robin turned thirty. These delays are disastrous on our culture, economy and family structure. There's no blame, no shame here, just the truth. Not to mention the fact that infertility among our twenty/thirty somethings has risen as well. What is going on? Now, just having grandchildren is a huge honor and we have to be careful how we celebrate it because so many of our friends will not have that honor in their lifetime. I'm doing a memorial for a friend who died in her 80's and has a combination of 50 grands, greats and great greats! The glory of being grands today does not necessarily mean we did something spectacular, we are just as surprised and overjoyed as the next grands. We have three young grand girls at this point and we are daily pinching ourselves at the opportunity to be on the front row of miracles. To have them live close. To watch them grow from birth through to every stage. To see their personalities so strong and evident from day one. It's all amazing and wonderful. People told us we would enjoy it, we do. People told us we'd make wonderful grands, we'll see. For now, the crowned glory is pure joy!

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Dad,

I write about this far too often, but I am still shocked that you've blessed me with a wife, kids and now grand girls.

That coupled with amazing friendships that are deep and lifelong makes the whole picture of my life quite a unique piece of art. I am extremely thankful for every one of these gifts and I pray that I steward my role well until the end. Help me finish well God!

contemplatio

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