

I am Just a Kid Learning How to do Life.

Right Back at You Grand-Pa

By Rick R.

When my grandson was in preschool, and after many hours with him, talking about everything from stars and space to bugs and animals, and trying to give him the best perspective I could about how to respond to life issues at a level that he could understand. He came home from pre-school one day and told me that one of the boys in his class was being bad and had gotten into trouble. I tried to explain to him that the boy was not bad, he was just misbehaving and that he was too young to be bad. (5yrs. Old) I explained to him that maybe that boy did not have someone who could teach him how to behave properly. He continued the conversation and asked ("Grandpa, if someone said I was a bad boy") I stopped him in midsentence and asked, "Who said that you were a bad boy"? He replied, "No one, but if they did" I stopped him again and said, if anyone says that you're a bad boy, you can just say, "I'm not a bad boy, **I'm just a kid learning how to do life.**" At a meeting shortly thereafter, the topic was on resentment, and, for lack of a better analogy, I told the story of my grandson and how I look at everyone in the same way. Most people act out, to compensate for deeper rooted emotional problems. None of us are perfect. We all have shortcomings and for me to condemn someone else, who may be plagued by these things and has not resolved them yet, would be like piling on, and **I always feel worse when I resort back to those old behaviors.** I should never let my **emotions, or my ego draw me into conflict** with other troubled people. I must always try to take the high road in these situations. But what about when other people cross my boundaries in a negative way, do I have to be a doormat? No, but I do not have to participate in it with them, if there is a way to remove myself from the situation, but I should not be judgmental either. I must refrain from pointing out that other person's faults. To me, they are like my grandson's little classmate. They are all like, (KIDS LEARNING HOW TO DO LIFE), and for me to engage in criticism in that situation would be like two old men in a care facility hitting each other with their canes because one was not walking fast enough for the other. It sounds funny, but we do it every day. I am no better or worse than the next man. I may be further along the path than him, but no better. I pray for understanding and compassion in these situations. I must never Judge a man on his surface behavior, I must have the strength to look deeper. *We are all just like those KIDS LEARNING HOW TO DO LIFE.*

A few months after that discussion with my grandson we were running a little late taking him to his Taekwondo class and he was in his child seat behind us in the car and I was bickering with my wife about getting there on time when he interrupted us saying "Guys, I can hear you." I responded by saying, "You should have been ready yourself" when he responded, "Grandpa, I am not a bad boy, I am just a kid learning how to do life." My wife and I broke out in laughter. God, I love that Kid.