

From the Family Room

Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL

29 April, 2018

Silver Saints Luncheon 2018



These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be written on your heart and mind. You shall teach them diligently to your children impressing God's precepts on their minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Our youngest grandson, David went hunting with me one afternoon this past December. We rode our four wheeler close to the field. As we walked from where we parked to our ground blind, David asked about 1,000 questions. We got in, set our chairs up, and arranged all of the packs, guns (one was David's toy gun), and snacks. I then downloaded Angry Birds on my phone for David. He didn't look up from his game until I got out my bag of cashew nuts. I ate one and he asked what that was. He had never seen a nut like that and was intrigued. He carefully watched me eat one and then asked for one. He really liked it and the rest of the afternoon he ate **several** cashews – but not too many. We had a great afternoon talking, eating cashews, and playing Angry Birds even though we obviously did not see any deer.

Several months later after deer season ended, we had a work day with all of the sons and grandsons working. During the day I bought a small bag of cashews to share with David. That afternoon after we had said our lengthy good-byes to Brock and David, Mark pulled out to leave for home in Tallahassee. He suddenly stopped. David rolled his window down and said something in his high pitched, excited, and innocent five year old voice. I did not understand. I walked over to the car and he said "Grandpa, do you know why I love cashews? It's because you taught me to. I love you. Bye." That simple statement about something that was meaningless in the big picture of the world hit me hard. We as grandparents have a great power in our influence over our grandchildren. What an opportunity! What a responsibility!

God knew that. Duh! That is why He commanded Israel to teach His commandments to their children. He knew the power the family had to teach most effectively. He knew the strong influence of daily examples from the older generation on the younger generation.

I have benefitted tremendously in the past from the older generations in our spiritual family here at Creekwood. Claude and Marietta Faulkenberry, Charles and Anita Ryals, Earl and Mildred Nelson, Homer and Annie Laurie Henderson, Warren Cornelius, Hurley Crews, Pat and Ernie Smith, Ray and Louise Robinson, Marvin and Martha Irvin, Richard and Margie Lincoln, Dawson and JoAnn Moorner, Bud and Joy McDonald, and many others that I do not have the space to list in this article. Thank you for the guidance you provided to many. Thank you for teaching God's commandments in Bible class and by your example in the ups and the downs of everyday life.

Do you know why Freda and I love God, His Son, and the church? Because you taught us too. We love you.

RICKY