

June 21, 2020

# Scott's Thoughts



*“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, ESV)*

“Who are you people and what have you done with my parents?” I responded, “Your mother and I have both matured some since you were growing up.” The question came from my oldest daughter. She was watching our interaction with our grandchildren. Now don’t get me wrong. We do not set out to deliberately undermine their parents. We just enjoy seeing them laugh and enjoying life as Ava and I enjoy the privilege of being grandparents!

Nollan and Caroline, who are seven and three arrived about 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday. By the time they went to bed at 10:30 p.m., the house looked like a minefield. The two of them are like most children. When they finish with something, they drop it wherever they are. My youngest daughter and son-in-law spend a lot of time teaching the children to pick up after themselves, but it will take many years of training until they will finally do so. (Ladies, take note! Most young men take longer to train in this respect than young girls.) Our grandchildren are fortunate they have two parents who take being parents seriously because many children are left at home to take care of themselves. It is worse when children roam the streets with no supervision whatsoever.

We are thankful when Nollan and Caroline are entrusted to our care! Aging has taught us that many things are not really as important as we once thought they were. So we are more relaxed in our approach in dealing with misbehavior. One of the things we try to teach them is that they, even at their young age, have choices. We ask them to do something and if they refuse our instinct tries to kick in and demand immediate action on their part. This approach will normally result in the volume level increasing in the room to an unacceptable level so before that happens, we try to offer them a choice such as, “Remember that show you want to watch on TV, you can do this and then watch the show later or you can lose the privilege of watching the show.” I never realized how much “Paw Patrol” or “Blues Clues” could mean to somebody.

Since the beginning of time, God has dealt with his people in much the same way as we do with our children. Hopefully as our children and grandchildren grow they’ll choose the best of the choices that confront them. We adults also have choices to make every day and hopefully we too, will choose the best of the choices that are set before us today, tomorrow and every day for the rest of our lives. The really good news is no matter what choices we have made in the past we can start today by making better ones that are more pleasing to God.

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott