

Being 53 I do not know how I could list the things that I have learned both from my parents and after them. I will list some of what my friends have come to call Mike isms. I have these little phrases that tell my viewpoint but do not tell you the answer, just what to think of. Being a parent is actually fun. Trying to communicate that to your child properly is tough. Having come up through the divorced family stuff allows you to see things a little different once it later happens to you.

I have come to believe that it is not so much a parent's roll to protect the child but to teach them the difference between good and bad, right and wrong. 90% of the major choices they will make in life will be made when you are not there anyway. You have to hope that you have given them the confidence to decide and go from there.

It is not as much of them never making a mistake as much as it is how often and did they learn from them. It is not whether you drop the fork or not it is if you pick it up after.

My late grandmother and a late uncle of mine were both very important to me. (As I figured out later) They always taught all of us to treat people like people and nothing else. Age, race etc had the nothing to do with it. My grandmother said: You treat nice people nice and ass holes like ass holes because that is all they really understand anyway.

One of the advantages of being in a town such as Iowa City it allows you the chance to listen and learn the different views all the time.

You meet them when they are 18 and they leave a few years later and that keeps going and you keep getting older but do not feel like it since the environment is kind the same.

Thank you for your time, I am sure you have the plenty of these things to read.

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