

THE CROWN OF GRAY HAIR

Proverbs 16:31

May 3, 2009 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. You know you're getting older when...
 - 1. 5:00 A.M. is when you get up, not when you go to bed.
 - 2. You watch the Weather Channel.
 - 3. You use your binoculars to watch birds not cheerleaders.
 - 4. You hear your favorite song in the elevator.
 - 5. You take naps because you want to.
- B. Did you know that Senior Adults are the biggest carriers of AIDS? Roloids, Band Aids and Hearing Aids.
- C. If you were born before 1945 you have seen the following things come into existence.
 - 1. Television
 - 2. Contact Lenses
 - 3. Credit Cards
 - 4. Ballpoint Pens
 - 5. Dishwashers
 - 6. Copy Machines
 - 7. McDonalds
 - 8. Yogurt
 - 9. Day Care Centers
 - 10. The Pill
 - 11. In 1955 a nickel could buy a coke or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy for \$600 and gasoline was 11 cents a gallon.
 - 12. In the 1930's Social Security declared the age of retirement to be 65. Only 7.5 million Americans fit that description then. Today, 65 million fit this description.
- D. There are three ways to tell if you're getting older. First, memory loss, second is a tendency to repeat yourself and the third is memory loss.
- E. Today let's consider three statements we've heard through the years about age.

I First Statement: "You Can't Teach An Old Dog A New Trick."

- A. This implies...
 - 1. Older people are all like dogs!
 - 2. Rather, it implies older people become rigid and unwilling to change.
- B. Consider several late bloomers who continued to contribute, though.
 - 1. Grandma Moses began painting when she was 76. She produced more than 1500 paintings.
 - 2. Michelangelo was 88 when he designed several cathedrals in Europe still standing today.
 - 3. Benjamin Franklin was 81 when he moderated the sessions leading to the adoption of our constitution.
 - 4. Frank Lloyd Wright was 91 when he designed the Guggenheim Museum in New York city.
- C. Consider how many "old dogs" today are.
 - 1. For one thing re entering the work force due to the downturn in the economy or are postponing their retirements for the same reason.
 - 2. Learning how to use a computer, iphone, blackberry, facebook, twitter, etc.
 - 3. Consider also how God used older people.
 - a. Abraham was 75 when God called him to leave his family and move to the Promised Land.
 - b. Moses was 80 when God used him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

II Second Statement: “Don’t Trust Anyone Over Thirty.”

- A. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, is an example of someone who followed this old adage. It divided the nation of Israel in two.

I Kings 12:8

⁸ But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him

- B. What does God think about older people?

Proverbs 16:31

³¹ Gray hair is a crown of splendor;

- C. Young people should by all means seek the counsel and wisdom of older people.

Mark Twain

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.

Job 12:12

¹² Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?

- D. Older people should:

1. Make themselves available to younger people.
2. Teach young people interested in learning.

III. THIRD STATEMENT: “You Can’t Help Getting Older, But You Don’t Have To Get Old”—George Burns.

- A. “Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter”. ~Mark Twain
- B. “Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative”. Maurice Chevalier, *New York Times*, 9 October 1960

CONCLUSION

Robert Browning, though, said it best: “Come grow old with me. The best is yet to be”.