



Dear Friends,

During my walk around Centennial Park this week, I chatted with a couple of regulars I see, Roy and Ray. Both men are grandparents. I told them I just became a grandparent for the first time. I then asked, "What's one tip you have for me as a new grandparent?" They both said the same thing: "Keep your childrearing ideas to yourself!"

When my son, Jeremy, got married last year, I asked three of my closest Christian friends to write a letter offering marriage advice to him as a new husband. I was inspired to do this by Kathryn, who had done a similar thing when our daughters got married.

My friends know Jeremy. One of them and his wife did marriage preparation with Jeremy and Mahlia. I figured Jeremy (and I) could learn a lot from their accumulated wisdom. Here is the advice from one of them:

- When you're at the sink washing up - annoyed because she isn't 'pulling her weight' ... remember it's an enormous privilege to serve Christ by serving your wife.
- Learn to listen to her. It's possible though, she may not really speak until she feels safe, valued, loved.
- Have fun together.
- If she's upset, it might be because of you, or it could be something completely different.
- Your wife is most likely smarter than you - isn't that good!
- When you think you really know her, don't worry she'll change.
- Your wife is not there to fulfil you or make you feel special or some other selfish thing - serve her.

One of the benefits of being in Christian community is to learn from the wisdom of others. We have an entire biblical book devoted to the passing on of wisdom, Proverbs. It begins with this advice to youngsters:

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. (Proverbs 1:8-9)

In a church family, there are many spiritual mums and dads, aunties and uncles, grandmas and grandpas. There is much wisdom to be found among these folk at RPC.

Presbyterian minister, Eugene Peterson wrote a book entitled, *The Wisdom of Each Other*. The book's aim is to encourage believers to seek wisdom from Christian brothers and sisters, and aunties and uncles in Christ. Here is what Peterson says:

The dominant and obvious forms of Christian discourse are preaching and teaching. That is as it should be. We have a great event of salvation to announce to the world – we need to proclaim it clearly and urgently ... But within that large context to which preaching and teaching provide the shape and content there are other ways of using words that are just as important, if not as conspicuous ... The conversations that take place in the parking lot after Sunday worship are as much a part of the formation of Christian character as preaching from the sanctuary pulpit.

As a new grandpa, I will seek advice from fellow grandparents, like I did from Ray and Roy. As a disciple of Jesus, I've always got my L plates on. So, I need to learn from the wisdom of others.

What about you? Over morning tea after Sunday worship over the next month, why not chat with an older saint and learn from them how to live well for Christ?

God Bless,
Mark Adams