

Good Old-Fashioned Advice

What is the best advice you have ever received? No doubt, the wheels are turning in your head as you think about the words someone – parent, friend, mentor or pastor – may have shared with you.

As I reflect on my life, I am grateful for the people who were there to counsel me, guide me and help me make good choices. When I didn't listen to sound advice is when I made a mess of things.

A while back, I read a newspaper column by Jim Davidson, a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist. In it, he shared a document entitled *Good Old-Fashioned Advice*. It has 21 concise statements that can serve us well:

1. Give people more than they expect, and do it cheerfully.
2. Marry a man/woman you love to talk to.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.
4. When you say *I love you*, mean it.
5. When you say *I'm sorry*, look the person in the eye.
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dreams. People who don't have dreams don't have much.
9. Love deeply and passionately.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly.
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slowly but think quickly.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask *Why do you want to know?*
14. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
15. Say *Bless you!* when you hear someone sneeze.
16. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
17. Remember the three Rs: Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all your actions.
18. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
19. When you realize you have made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
20. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
21. Spend time alone with God every day.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet and philosopher, once said: "Advice is like snow: the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into, the mind."

Whether you agree with all of these statements or not, you are richer for thinking about them.

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future
(Proverbs 19:20 ESV).