

Daily View

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today'" Hebrews 3:13

August 6, 2020

Ernie Myers: A Legacy of Kindness

My uncle Ernie just passed away, at the age of 90. He was my mother's last surviving, and youngest, sibling.

I've mentioned Ernie before. He's the one who saved me, at age 3 or 4, from being gored by a bull when I crawled into the neighbor's corral next door to my grandma's house. He's the one who was the star quarterback at Patterson High School — I was proud to say *"he's my uncle."* He was a teacher and football coach at Ceres High School for many years and played tennis nearly every day, well into his 80s. And he was married his beautiful bride Bonita, for nearly 66 years.

Uncle Ernie is a hero in my memory bank. But more importantly I remember him as a kind man. I chose to feature him in the *Daily View* because kindness cannot be underrated and is sorely needed today in our world. There is so much hatred these days.

All of my mother's siblings, as well as my grandparents, were exceptionally kind people. That's probably the main reason I loved visiting my grandparents every summer. Their house was filled with love, laughter... and *kindness*. I wish I could go back in time, if only for a day or ten, and experience that again. I wish I could take Christie and my



I kind of idolized uncle Ernie. Look at that hair!

kids back in time. I can still summon up the good "vibes" that I had when I was in that little house in rural Patterson.

Memories are all we have, when it comes right down to it. And of all the things that people might remember about you, other than your faith in Christ, kindness should be at the top of the list. In fact, if you have real faith in Christ, kindness is your nature. When Israel asked God what he wanted — and sarcastically suggested ever-increasing sacrifices, God responded: "What does the Lord require but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:6-8). My mom's family *loved* kindness.

Kindness is so important is because it is the best indicator of concern for other people. I guess you can fake it, but not for long. Kind people don't have to "watch their tongue," they just naturally resist uttering discouraging words. They think before they talk.

Being nice and being kind are not the same thing. Being nice is situational whereas kindness is a quality of character. Kindness is displayed in the way we treat others. It's an action

word. I've read that the Greek word for "kind" means something like "useful." Kind people put themselves at others' disposal and don't worry about being taken for granted or taken advantage of. They are patient. That's why Paul pairs "patient" and "kind" in the list of attributes of love in I Corinthians 13:4-7.

I always loved to hear that Ernie and Bonita were coming to visit when we were at grandma's house. They were the kind of people that brightened your day when they walked in the room — and they were relatives!

Though I'm sad to hear of his passing, he leaves a legacy, not only of being a great family man and sportsman, but of kindness. That's something we need more of today and it's a legacy worth aiming for.



Ernie taught me how to throw a football.



Some neighborhood art; appropriate today.