

## ***One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!***

### **# 15 *“I want you to be the father of my children.”***

Ellie and I met in the fall of 1946. Thousands of other young men and I had just returned from World War II and enrolled at Kansas University. Girls were in short supply and this was my first date. She was 19 and I was 21. I knew very shortly this was the girl I wanted to marry. I told my folks at Christmas break I wanted her to be my wife.

When I proposed a few weeks later, she didn't just say, “Yes”. Instead, she startled me by adding: ***“I want you to be the father of my children”***. Her response was remarkably unexpected. It was also prophetic. It told me she was not seeking an outside career. The title of wife and mother was all Ellie ever wanted. Family and friends were her life! We were married August 28, 1948.

For 61 years she was a great gift to me, our children and the generations who followed. At my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration, I looked out over the crowd and saw a daughter, two granddaughters and four great granddaughters who carried one of her names! Later, I met separately with the grandchildren and confessed, “If we would have had any idea when we were married that this would be the result, we would have been totally overwhelmed.” Then I added, “But it is wonderful!”

Most of us have little idea what it really means to become married. When Ellie answered, ***“I want you to be the father of my children”***, she was entrusting me with the greatest honor she could bestow. I didn't realize at the time how much it would enrich us both. I think she did—and I am grateful beyond words.

*From Grandpa With Love*

#### **A Note From the Writer**

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin