

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

# 51 ***“You can put me in my room,  
but you can’t make me study!”***

I never wrote anything about raising children. It always seemed so easy in the books and so hard in real life. It didn’t begin to work for me until I let go and let God be in charge. Then, it was almost as if I was sitting on the fence watching as He directed me.

Each of the children was different. It made me wonder how five kids, raised in the same household by the same parents could have such different abilities, personalities and gifts? It helped when I began to treat them as individuals and not as a group. Another was to recognize I wasn’t their alter ego, and I wasn’t supposed to conform them to some great, predetermined plan. I was just supposed to help them become who God had designed them to be.

Over the years they taught me many lessons. One came about half way through a daughter’s school career, when in desperation I confined her to her room to study. Her response was a classic: ***“You can put me in my room, but you can’t make me study!”***

She was teaching me the age-old lesson that you can conform people from the outside by laws, and rules, and force. But we do something *internally* because *we want to*.

There are times, of course, when we have to control children or others for their own benefit. But it sure helped when I learned to make myself, and the way I was going, attractive enough that they followed because they wanted to—not because they had to!

*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. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin