

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

97 “*Marvin, you are old!*”

As the years roll by, our age becomes increasingly important and obvious. But my aging took one of our younger friends by surprise. He approached me after a talk I gave in my eighties, and burst out, “***Marvin, you are old!***” I sensed it was a realization, not a condemnation. I smiled and answered, “Yes—and, it’s O.K., isn’t it? Young isn’t good. Old isn’t bad. They simply are!”

Every age has its own benefits and difficulties. Because we are so active when we are younger, age isn’t on everyone’s mind. But when there are only a few years left, it draws increasing attention. We now have limited time, mobility, ability and importance to the world. When I told one of our sons that I heard old folks become “invisible”, he replied, “No Dad, you’re irrelevant!” Not to loved ones or the Lord, but to the world. I responded, “Yes, and the world is becoming increasingly irrelevant to me!”

As I enter my nineties, I feel we are in a satellite, still bound by earth’s gravity but circling the globe far above the clouds. The view is magnificent! Hills and valleys and streams increasingly fit together. And our new function and contribution is the wonderful privilege of telling those still down below what we see!

Only from this altitude can we begin to comprehend what old King Solomon concluded in Ecclesiastes. Repeatedly, he tells us that all his pleasures and possessions and position in the world were “*meaningless*”. Nothing more than “*chasing the wind*”!

So, don’t feel sorry for us (or for you) when we are old!

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. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin