

BEING A GRANDPARENT

Dorothy C. Yang

Many Chinese grandparents in America are disappointed and unsatisfied. Some live with their children and grandchildren and some have just come to visit. Those who have lived in America a long time may have fewer problems than those who have just come. They no longer understand their children and their grandchildren.

In China, the blood and family relationship carry with it filiality and loyalty. Everyone is expected to fulfill their role in the family. No one is expected to work toward a fulfilling emotional and meaningful relationship. However, many have tried and were successful, while others remained cold and distant, just fulfilling their duty toward the relationship. Yet in the west, it seems that everyone has the duty to build relationship whether family, friends or members of society. I always feel that this is much more meaningful.

This is the way our family relationship should be built from the very beginning. Parents are often neglected when the children have their own family. As for grandchildren, if you are a visitor you are no different than a stranger to them. You should not feel hurt when they feel distant from you. Just try your best to win them patiently and slowly.

Also in China, Children are parents' properties, so whatever belongs to the children also belongs to them. The grandchildren will often declare that it is their home and not their grandparents' home. This really hurts the

grandparents. Again the Chinese parents expect the children to take care of them in their old age as they have taken care of their parents. It is only a sense of duty. Would it be more meaningful if it is based on love and sincere caring?

Therefore, there is so much for us to learn to be grandparents in America.

1. Be willing to accept new and good ideas and to adjust to the way of thinking. Children are God's gift and they belong to God. It is our duty to bring them up and educate them to the best of our ability. We should also love them because God loves us all.

2. Always be willing to build relationships with children and grandchildren. Continue to build relationship with adults, children and their spouses. With grandchildren one needs wisdom and patience to gain their love and respect. Share with them your faith. If you really love them, they will respond to you because they are sincere and truthful.

3. Try not to expect or overexpect. If you do, you will only hurt yourself. The children are not even aware of it.

4. Try to understand your adult children. In most families both parents work full time. They have to do housework and meet the needs of their children. With the work load in their jobs, they are constantly under pressure. They do not mean to neglect parents, but sometimes it is just too much to meet the needs of everyone in the family. If

Christian grandparents will be less self-centered and more sympathetic to their children they will be happier.

5. Accept your children and your grandchildren and appreciate them. Be content in whatever situation you are in. It is true that when you live with your children, usually there is no privacy. Try to stay away especially when there are family conflicts and disciplinary problems. Pary quietly for them because only God can change situations. With God nothing is impossible.

6. To me when I see that my children have a happy home and my grandchildren are happy children, I am satisfied and grateful to God for His blessings to me. Whatever the children will give me will be from their hearts.

We should enjoy our grandchildren. The time with them is short as we do not have years ahead of us. Grandchildren are special gifts from God. They are our crowns. May they have a sweet memory of us when we gone.

THE GOD OF ANTS

David Lin

An ant crawls across my desk. Lasus Niger, I recall as a good biology major should. Head, thorax, abdomen. Compound eyes, labium, spiracles. Suddenly I realize it is not merely a tiny machine moving around, like those miniature robot toys "Made in Japan"; this ant is alive. It has life. Life. Like me.

Our lives are so different, though. We both have bodies of flesh, powered by hearts, and directed by brains. However, only I can think and reason. Only I can feel and love. Only I can write about the other.

Both of us have mothers who brought us into this world. But only my mother kisses me goodnight, guides and comforts me through hard times, and prays for me.

As the ant lives and works around countless other ants, so I work around people. Yet only I can laugh, cry, and talk with special people-friends-who care for me even as I care for them.

We both learn. However, only I can

contribute new ideas so that others after me can learn even more. Only I can attend universities to keep the blessing of learning alive.

The greatest difference of our lives is that although the same all-wise and loving God created us, only I can know Him personally. Only I can listen to the story of how He came to earth as the Man Jesus Christ to die on the cross for me, offering me the gift of true Life. Only I can accept this gift, which He lovingly offers to anyone who comes to Him. Only I can worship Him, who rose from the tomb, proving to all that this new Life is real and powerful.

The goal and purpose of my life, then, is to live His Life in all I do, from one day teaching my children about God, to teaching college students about ants.

"Go to the ant..... observe her ways and be wise."

Proverbs 6:6

