

A young man recently asked me what the advantage was of being an old man.

I had three days to think about this question while my lawyer worked to get me out - something about smacking a guy upside the head with a two-by-four is wrong, they tell me.

Though I vehemently insist on referring to my age as 21 with 34 years of experience, I suppose I am able to shed some knowledge on this thing called the aging process. So being a giving guy - who also has a mounting legal bill to pay - I have decided to share with you some random thoughts about the advantage of getting older.

Credit reports – doesn't matter

Paying bills on time – doesn't matter

Owning a home – doesn't matter

Having the latest SUV – doesn't matter

Having a drink with your daughter every week - matters

Wearing the latest styles – doesn't matter

Taking a cruise – doesn't matter

Having shiny white teeth – doesn't matter

Keeping up with the trends – doesn't matter

Going camping with your friends - matters

Having gray hair – doesn't matter

That extra flab that won't go away – doesn't matter

Feeling two steps behind everyone else – doesn't matter

Knowing you can't party like you use to – doesn't matter

Looking in the mirror and being able to smile - matters

Achieving that dream in your heart – doesn't matter

Finding the love of your life – doesn't matter

Solving all the world's problems – doesn't matter

Making a difference – doesn't matter

Trying - matters

Going to the right church – doesn't matter

Knowing all about the Bible – doesn't matter

Following all of life's rules – doesn't matter

Knowing right from wrong – doesn't matter

Seeing God as a friend you can trust - matters

I have no idea if I'm going to be very good at this senior citizen stuff. I wasn't much of an adult. Actually, I was a pretty good teenager and have pretty much stayed there in my heart through the years.

It's not that I ignored the doesn't matter items on my list. Actually, I've done okay in most of them, I suppose. To be honest, I really don't have a problem in pursuing those things.

To me it's more an issue of understanding those items in our life that do matter and making sure that you do take advantage of them whenever you can.

It's a wonderful peace you have when you get to the down slope of your life knowing that although you may have screwed up many things, you have done well with those things that mattered.

I have not made a lot of money. I have not been very good in business. I have not garnered many of life's toys and pleasures. I have not been able to reach my dreams.

But I have also not made any enemies. Well, with the exception of the young man recovering from the two-by-four I planted on his sideburns. But frankly, he had it coming to him.

As you get older, you tend to reflect more on your past. When you do, you find most of your thoughts deal with relationships. I assure you it will matter if those thoughts bring a smile or a sigh of missed opportunity.

Just a Thought