

Someone asked me if I had any regrets in my life. Are you kidding? Everyone has regrets, it's just that when you cross that 70 year marker, there isn't much you can do about most of your regrets.

When you are over seventy, you're basically just waiting to die. I know that sounds morbid, but it's not. What I'm saying is that once you reach seventy, the very next thing on your time line of life is death. It may be tomorrow, or it may be twenty years from now, but it is, in fact, the next thing on your time line. If I die tomorrow - or twenty years from now - most people will say, 'Well, he was over seventy, ya know'. With only a few saying, 'Huh, Andy Smith died? I didn't realize he was still alive.' When you're over seventy, that's just how it is, people.

Having regrets is not a good topic, because everyone has regrets. It's just a part of life.

To me, the bigger question has to deal with your acceptance. The quality of my life as I wait for the final curtain, depends a great deal on how I accept all the other chapters of my life before. Accepting your past is a lot different from having regrets about your past.

I accept that I never reached my dream of being a writer, because it's not true. I spent my whole adult life writing stories and I am my biggest fan. I love the stories and songs I created. I also absolutely accept the fact that I am not a good salesman. I'm not good at selling my product, which is the main reason I never made a living as a writer.

The only regret I have about my writing is that people never got the chance to enjoy my stories. I don't regret my efforts, but I do regret the results.

I accept the fact that I am absolutely the poster child for 'older but wiser' realities. Be it my youth, sports, history, religion, you name it, and there is no question my response would be brilliant and highly treasured by the youth of this world.

I regret that I never took the time to sit down with my grandparents to talk about their history, because now that the tables have turned, I understand how much of a blessing that would have been for me to take the time to hear their stories first hand.

I accept the relationships in my journey. I know it's not a numbers game in life, so it's not how much I was loved or how many friends I had. It only matters that I had a kind heart that

made me a good friend, a good dad and a good citizen.

I only regret those times I fell short and hurt others from time to time. I don't beat myself up, because I know my heart was always in the right place, but I do regret having hurt others through my journey.

I accept the wonderful opportunities I had in my journey that uniquely shaped and formulated my vision of God. Being raised in a good Catholic home and playing in a successful band during the Jesus movement of the early seventies gave me an ability to see and participate in the many ways people connect to God. I am so grateful that these opportunities gave me such a unique perspective and understanding of who God is and how God works that most people will never see.

I only regret that so many of my writings that presented this simple message that God is Love, never had a chance to reach out to those who question the reality of God.

I guess the bottom line is that I do have regrets, but I don't dwell in them much.

But I do accept the journey my life has brought me so far. I don't think life is a right or wrong proposition. Success and failures come on every persons resume of life. I have always believed that what is important is how you play the hand you've been dealt.

We've all been dealt a different hand. It's not important for me to compare my hand with yours. It's only important that I accept my hand and always play to win.

Just A Thought