

# Moral Perfection

When Ben Franklin was a young man, he didn't practice much of the advice for which he later became famous. At the age of twenty, he decided to change his irresponsible ways, so he made four resolutions to help guide him through life toward "moral perfection."

**\*He** would become more frugal so that he could pay money to the people he owed.

**\*He** resolved to become more honest and truthful in every way he could.

**\*He** would be as industrious as possible at whatever task was at hand.

**\*He** vowed to never speak ill of any person, not even if what he might say is true, and to speak of only the good things about the people he knew.

Franklin believed strongly in self-improvement and worked tirelessly to better himself. From his four resolutions, he developed thirteen virtues to live by. He numbered the virtues and worked on only one per week. Below are the thirteen virtues.

**Temperance.** Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.

**Silence.** Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

**Order.** Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.

**Resolution.** Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

**Frugality.** Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; i.e., waste nothing.

**Industry.** Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

**Sincerity.** Use no harmful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.

**Justice.** Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.

**Moderation.** Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.

**Cleanliness.** Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes or habitation.

**Tranquility.** Be not disturbed at trifles or at accidents common or avoidable.

**Chastity.** Rarely use sexual pleasure but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.

**Humility.** Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

# Boudreaux's Wisdom



Reverend Boudreaux was the part-time Pastor of the local Cajun Baptist Church and Pastor

Thibodaux was the minister of the Covenant Church across the road.

They were both standing by the road, pounding a sign into the ground that read: "Da End is Near! Turn You Self Around Now! Before It's Too Late!"

As a car sped past them, the driver leaned out his window and yelled, "You religious nuts!"



From the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash... Bordeaux turns to Thibodaux and asks, "Do ya tink maybe da sign should jus say 'Bridge Out'?"

## THE RELIABLE REPORT

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# May Anniversaries

Frank Kearney 31 yrs. 5/1 RPS  
Hunter Gosserand 8 yrs. 5/1 RAC  
Jacob Leger 1 yr. 5/5 RPS  
Jackie Douglas 12 yrs. 5/12 RAC  
Sharon Hebert 31 yrs. 5/15 RPS  
Darrell Harris 29 yrs. 5/15 RPS  
Darrel Milson 4 yrs. 5/19 LRI  
Shane Miller 11 yrs. 5/20 RPS  
DeEtte Staid 4 yrs. 5/23 RAC  
Shannon Vidrine 8 yrs. 5/24 RPS  
Terry "Gab" Seal 2 yrs. 5/29 RPS



Reliable Production Service

Reliable Amusement Company



Liberty Resources, Inc.

## THINK ABOUT IT!

Start with your own money and value your intuition. It's all about endurance in the beginning. Your dream and passion to succeed must be stronger than your fear of failure.

Terri Bowersock

# May Birthdays

Jason Jack 5/3 RPS  
Hunter Gosserand 5/10 RAC  
Alexander Davis 5/15 RPS  
Gregory "Bones" Hollins 5/20 RPS  
Donald Aymond 5/21 RPS  
Billy Parks 5/25 LRI  
Gene Jason 5/27 RPS

RPS – Reliable Production Service

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# "SAFETY FIRST"

## Poll Finds Residents of Coastal States Complacent



A Mason-Dixon poll released this year reveals residents of hurricane-vulnerable states say they will not evacuate and prefer to weather storms at home.

The 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season starts on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will last until November 30<sup>th</sup>. On April 7, 2009 forecasters predicted 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes, with 2 of them predicted to be intense.

The most important thing you can do as hurricane season approaches is to get yourself, your family, your workplace and your home prepared. Now is the best time to refamiliarize yourself with your home/work hurricane preparedness plan.

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- ☑ **Water:** at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days.
- ☑ **Food:** at least enough for 3 to 7 days. Nonperishable packaged or canned food/juices. Food for infants or the elderly. Nonelectric can opener.
- ☑ **First-Aid Kit:** make sure prescriptions are filled and you have enough medicine to last a week.
- ☑ **Safety Kit:** keep a good supply of batteries for the flashlight and radio, as well as candles and matches.
- ☑ **Make sure:** all vehicles are filled with gas. Have extra fuel on hand if you plan to use a generator.

Buy supplies early to prepare for the storm. When the storm threatens, lines will be long and supplies short.

Be sure to charge all cell phones, fill all propane tanks, get cash (including coins), set your refrigerators and freezers to the coldest settings, and fill sinks and bathtubs to provide a supply of water.

**STAY INSIDE:** However tempting it may be to videotape or take photos of the storm, be sure to shoot from indoors where it's safe, and dry!

# It's For Your Own Good!

How many of us remember the chilling phrase that stopped everything you were doing as a naughty child? For me it was my dad saying, "Boy you're begging for a whipping."

He wasn't kidding either. If you didn't stop misbehaving, he would tan your hide while reminding you who's to blame by saying, "I hope you're happy. You got what you asked for." Those whippings came only after the dreaded evil eye failed to get a response. If I would have only heeded the first warning, I could have escaped without any physical pain. I must admit, pain and suffering did make me comply with dad's wishes, unlike the stare from across the room.

What can we deduct from that warning glance and the whipping that was certain to follow if we continued to misbehave? First, we were warned, given a second chance to rectify our behavior. Secondly, it seemed like we couldn't get away with anything. Parents back then had eyes in the back of their head. The truth is they were always watching us. Thirdly, you were loved. That's right! You got spanked because they cared enough to correct you when you were begging for it the most.

So, what happened to the good-old-days when you respected authority figures? There are many competing opinions out there on why we feel the need to challenge others when they try to correct our behavior. Personally, I believe that the sooner we realize others are trying to guide us in the right direction, as opposed to thinking they are just trying to tell us what to do; we would be less confrontational and more conciliatory. This shift in thinking allows us to see that we are being taught, not attacked.

As a parent still raising children, I want to instill in them a healthy respect for authority. While they are still young and impressionable, I'm trying to set their moral compass in the right direction. While our children are under our care, we should provide them with a set of values that are rooted in integrity of oneself and respect for others.

There's nothing that makes a parent prouder than to know they've raised a well-mannered, respectful, and yes, self-sufficient child. This doesn't happen overnight, nor does it materialize without much suffering on everybody's part. If we want the next generation to have the same respect we were raised with, we must be willing to teach, guide, nurture, and even let them suffer the consequences of disrespect. Suffering can produce great benefits today, and if Alan Jackson is right, "God has a place in Heaven for a small town southern man", and I'll add to that, "a woman as well." Don't be overly concerned with providing material things that don't last, teach them life lessons instead.