

LESSON IN LIVING

PEACEMAKING BLESSINGS

Elma Allen Milano

Boy oh boy! What would we do without our computers? How about those new cameras which enable us to view pictures immediately? How about the phone advancements? We are indeed a blessed generation!

But, how about our peacemaking? Have we improved in this area of living? Wouldn't life be better if we focused on our blessings instead of our trials? And do we ask God to help us see our own weaknesses and the virtues of others? (This has been the prayer that has been answered the most quickly of anything I have ever prayed for!) Think how much nicer life would be if we didn't have to listen to gossip, backbiting or criticism!

After I divorced the father of our six children, it was over thirty years before we spoke again. I can thank my ex-husband for insisting that I attend the wedding reception of our eldest granddaughter so we could mend our fences. It was one of the hardest things I have ever done, but it was also one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. Since then, we have become "phone pals" and keep in touch to share family news. I can say he was right in insisting that I attend. Two of my children cried during the entire first visit; one daughter had never seen her mother and dad talk together. Luckily, his second wife was also a peacemaker. I can surely recommend that other divorced couples reopen the lines of communication and enjoy the subsequent peacemaking.

Thankfully, our relationship while married was not tumultuous. I did not come from a quarrelsome family and neither did Hank, my husband. Even though we eventually divorced, ours had never been a contentious relationship. So, does this give me the right to share tips for a peacemaking home? Perhaps so! I tell myself that the reason we married must have been to combine bloodlines. Once that was accomplished, it seemed to be, "mission accomplished" as we moved on. Here are a few tips for enjoying PEACEMAKING BLESSINGS:

LEARN TO NOT CRITICIZE, CONDEMN OR COMPLAIN

FOCUS ON THE VIRTUES OF OTHERS & PAY SINCERE COMPLIMENTS

SMILE, BE POLITE AND KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

BE THANKFUL AND POSITIVE; COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

USE MUSIC TO BRING CHEER AND UNITY INTO OUR LIVES

FOCUS ON GIVING SERVICE TO OTHERS INSTEAD OF OURSELVES

This was written in 2005 when Elma was 85-years-old. Please find the entire LIL. series on lintonmilano.com.