



# Extra advice for recent graduates

Posted: Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Like many residents of southcentral Kentucky, I attended my son's high school graduation this past weekend. As any parent knows, this is a bittersweet time for those who have watched their children progress through the first important chapter in their lives.

In addition to all the advice they received at commencement, I would like to add a few words of wisdom I have gleaned over the past few decades. I'm sure our recent grads have probably had some exposure to these ideas, but I think they warrant reiterating.

First, become intimately acquainted with the concept of "paying your dues." Your diploma is really nothing more than an admission ticket – it's what you do going forward that counts. Most of you will start at the bottom and work your way up.

Second, you might want to Google "personal responsibility" to get a better sense of what the world owes you. Life is invariably what you make it; and as long as you still expect Mommy and Daddy to solve your problems, you will never reach your full potential.

Third, keep in mind that "respect must be earned." If you consistently do your best whenever you've been given a work assignment, you'll be surprised at the opportunities that will eventually open up for you. Learn to be patient.

Fourth – and you might want to get this one tattooed on a favorite body part: "Life is not fair." It would be nice if it was, but it's not. Remember this when some well-connected idiot gets the job you are more qualified for or takes the credit for your idea.

Finally, "never give up." Life truly is a marathon and not a 100-yard dash. So take the long view, appreciate those who care about you, believe in yourself and trust in God.

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