

Life According to Bill Rock

--Dads Office at Williams Hall

Class of 196? Life According to or Life Lesson of Professor Rock. (Sayings of Chairman Rock)

Who was Bill Rock

Different for each of us depending on your relationship or connection
First and foremost Bill Rock was my "Dad" I would like to share who he was "Through my Eyes".

1. Christian—Follower of Christ / Live "Christlike"

Purpose on Earth – Many discussions as to whether he fulfilled "His Purpose"
John Kretzchmar High School Sunday School. "Further the Kingdom of God"
I feel we are measured by the positive impact we have on the lives of others.
He touched and positively impacted thousands and most certainly "Furthered the Kingdom of God."

2. Seeker of Knowledge

a. Passion to Learn

- i. Figured out how to navigate the internet. Looking for tidbits
During Sunday night phone calls it became apparent he knew more about the team we were playing or about our team than I knew myself.
- ii. Read Constantly not sure he read for enjoyment but rather to learn
- iii. Wrote and Published various book reviews well into retirement

b. Human Phenomenon Known as Limbic Resonance "A General History of Love"

We are familiar with traditional senses, like your eyes give you information about electromagnetic radiation or your ears give you information about changes in sound waves. Well there is another sensory system in the brain, which is designed to give information about the emotional state inside someone else's brain. That Sensory Experience is Limbic Resonance.

Limbric Resonance is a “Two way” path: you can sense the inside of someone else’s brain, and they can sense the inside of yours.....and each person influences the other.

It is a two-way sensory experience of emotion.

Commonly, it can be referred to as a “vibe”. Because people are mammals, they have a part of the brain that allows them to tune into the brain of another. When you look at another person, you have that emotional connection. Usually its eye contact or initiated by vision. Your brain reads the facial expression, the pupil size, the body language. In a microsecond, it gets a kind of snapshot of what is going on in the other persons brain and adjusts toward that. At the same time, the other persons brain is doing the same thing. EMOTIONS ARE CONTAGIOUS.

Dad understood this phenomenon and the Power of Human Connection. He believed creating, developing, furthering human relationships was the key to happiness, joy, and love. He reminded me many times that Limbric Resonance explained how he and mom knew after 3 dates that they would be together forever.

3. Teacher

Teaching was not only what he did, but rather, who he was

Dad taught us about life through experience.

He used numerous teaching methods

(Adolescents) Discipline—Grass mowing incident

(Teen Ager) Lecture—none of us liked this because we quickly realized how much more intelligent he was and he incorporated logic and common sense.

The method he mastered and used most often was to teach by example.....”Don’t work too hard, but do all you can””Trust your gut, you gotta do what you think is best” “Do as I do, not as I say” “Sometimes you just gotta do what you just gotta do, Life never promised you a rose garden”. “The more you learn, the more it becomes evident you really don’t know anything.”

Work Ethic, Composure, integrity, honesty, compassion, perseverance, humility, class and many other beneficial qualities we learned watching Bill Rock....."Whether we liked it or not."

4. Giver

Service to Others---Wheeled Meals, various roles within the church, Gallons of blood donated.

Financial Generosity-----Still receiving daily donation requests from an incredible variety of charities.

Giver of Time.....Never Too Busy

Time to Talk, a Time to listen and a Time to Teach. He would tell my kids "Sometimes its better to Remain silent and let people think you're stupid, than it is to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

Dad loved to tell stories, share experiences, have political or social debates (which I avoided at all costs). We can see Dad grabbing your elbow and pulling you in to make a point, or tucking his hand in his belt as he pondered his next sentence. Dad was comfortable speaking to world scholars, college presidents, wealthy businessmen, visitors at church, fans at a ball game or the kid who came to mow the lawn. Black/White, Rich/Poor, Young/Old, he didn't care. He loved and mastered the "Art of Conversation".

5. Bill Rock was a man of Commitment and Love

You always knew where he stood.....Things were pretty Black and White, not much gray area.

He loved nature and All of Gods creations that often go unappreciated..... a bird singing, a tree growing, a sunset over the lake a walk in the woods, a bike ride with mom.

Never a doubt in anyones mind....He loved my mom and devoted his life to her and she him

He loved us kids. He in turn accepted, embraced and loved each of our spouses and his 7 grandkids and their spouses and loved them all.....unconditionally. He only got to meet 1 of his 3 great grandchildren, but I guarantee his DNA runs deep in each of them

He loved St. Marks....it was the center of his spiritual and social world.

He loved BGSU and the people he connected with for 30 + years.

He loved the city of Bowling Green. Its where he chose to raise his family and share his life.

Dan Fogleburg wrote and recorded a song in the 1970's called the "Leader of the Band". It is a tribute to his father and the refrain runs through my head every day. It goes like this:

**The Leader of the Band is Tired
 And his Eyes are growing old
But his Blood runs through my instrument
 And his song is in my soul
My life has been a poor attempt
 To imitate the man
I am (we are) a living legacy
 To the Leader of the Band**

Billy Ray, We have passed your legacy to our children, who I am confident will pass it on to theirs.

It is easier said than done, but we should not mourn the fact that my Dad has passed, rather we must thank God that my Dad Lived. We are all better because we have shared a few pages or chapters of "Life According to Bill Rock"