

“DEAL” It’s an interesting word. My son, Tim, in one of his recent Posts, used the word to describe youth behavior, so I’m taking this opportunity to amplify some thoughts. The word has many synonyms: distribute, trade, negotiate and others too.

As mentioned in a few of my other BIAP (*Book in a page*) website articles, we live in a *Cause and Effect* world. This implies: *Everything happens for a reason*. As time passes, every generation is challenged with the call to parent the next, and each one is presented with new circumstances that had not existed previously.

We were all teenagers once; for some of us, that was a long time ago. Did you know the word “adolescent” did not exist until early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century? There was no need for such a word. We lived in a low tech world then, but I don’t think we suffered too much from that. Centuries ago Marcus Aurelius wrote: *“Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not necessarily true.”*

With modern technology, a lot of what our youth hears and sees originates from opinions and perspectives that emerge from motives many of us would not consider worthy, healthy values.

Many, in earlier times, received entire grade school and high school educations in one room school houses with all ages learning together: *No bracketed grade levels*.

Young students would then work along with their elders and continue learning by observing older siblings, parents and grandparents. They developed their passions, purposes and missions by working together.

Thus, they experienced the learning DEAL by becoming:

**D** – Dedicated (*Able to stay with commitments because they were passionate*)

**E** – Enterprising (*Finding successful ways to reach goals because of focus*)

**A** – Ambitious (*Passionate about life because of a purpose driven mission*)

**L** – Learners (*Not afraid to test and try what they’re observing from others*)

Get it? The D-E-A-L!!!

Some, in our contemporary society experience a confusion DEAL by becoming:

**D** – Distracted (*Lacking focus with portable devices and too many choices*)

**E** – Entitled (*Believing they deserve perks because of needs and no purpose*)

**A** – Apathetic (*Often overwhelmed and indifferent regarding their future*)

**L** - Languishing (*Frequently failing to stay with any defined commitments*)

Some in our more mature generations see today’s youth as troublesome. We should reframe from that attitude. We must help them visualize themselves as servants, contributors with solutions. If we’re critical of our youth’s behavior, we must remember, it was the older generations who modeled wild materialism and then neglected to teach them what is valuable in life and what is not.

If we lead our youth toward worthy purposes, society will miraculously provide change. That’s the DEAL. Without spiritually driven self-worth, our youth will fail the needs for themselves and society. With godly purposes, we’re all alive and well!!!

**Let’s make a great “DEAL” for our youth. OK???**

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