

Respond

By Cameron Shippee

It is all in how you respond.

I was born with a positive response and so were you. When something happens I do what I have to do, and then get on with what I was doing.

Adults do not always do that. Sometimes, I see them talk, complain, blame others, and talk about getting even, or getting back at someone. I see a lot of energy and hostility that I just don't have. Will I have it when I get older? I hope not, as it does not look like fun nor the appropriate response. Why waste all that good energy on someone else.

It seems to me, in my short life here on earth, that it is all in my response. I know to respond with a smile is to get a smile back. Even if someone is not in a good mood I can smile in response and usually get them to smile. It makes me feel good and it seems to make them feel good. Would it make you feel good?

Most of my time is spent in learning and trying new things. That said, I already know. I am just using my new body to do things which, somehow, I seem to know. While not clear, I know, and I practice till I get it right. When wrong, I respond with trying more, trying a little differently, or trying with a little more experience.

Sure, I get upset. I also let it go, and I get over it quickly. There does not seem any value, to me, to be mad, or hold what you call a grudge. Heck, I would not want someone to hold a grudge against me for something I did. I am sure I have done things some people did not like, or felt hurt them. What if grandpa held a grudge because I filled my diaper as soon as he was babysitting after my parents left? What if he held a grudge and would not babysit as I was fussy, very fussy, last week when I had a cold and fever. Why, he'd miss out on seeing me. Yes, I would miss out on seeing him also.

What are you missing out on by holding a grudge? What are you not part of due to a grudge? Is it worth it? Is any grudge worth it? What is a better response?

I am going to guess, at my young age, that no grudge is worth it. Sure, I am not thrilled with the way some people treat me but that is life. Some people might not be thrilled with me. Some don't like babies. We are not all born with the same likes and dislikes. I go to those that welcome me.

Why not welcome everyone. OK, almost everyone. If you don't like someone, for whatever reason, and they do not like you, why not let it go, let go of the grudge, and go your separate ways. In the future you may come together or maybe not. It does not matter, does it? So, let them go but do not hold a grudge.

For me, it is a game. It is a game to get everyone to like me and respond in a positive way. So far I believe I am liked by all. I just hope I continue to respond so that I will be liked and people will not respond negatively to me.

How about you? How are you going to respond? Remember, what happens may well be out of your control. How you respond is up to you, under your total control, and will determine how your life is lived from that moment forward. Respond well, it is worth it.