

As Mother's Day draws near, I become a little sentimental. My mind drifts back to the childhood days of my children, the good times and bad, and especially to what I have tried to teach my children to prepare them for life. Around a table last Friday evening, several of us were enjoying the refreshments at a reception, when one of the mothers in the group began talking about her son. Faye was beaming with pride about what Bill had done with his life and about his future aspirations. She could look back and laugh now at some of the things he had done in his earlier years. Very vividly she told us about a time when the school principal called her to pick up her third-grade son. She drove frantically eighteen miles to the school finding the child sitting quietly in the principal's office. It seems he had created quite a disruption in the classroom, which he readily admitted, by asking a simple question. His teacher wore her hair pulled back in a tight bun. Curious child that he was, he asked her politely, "Ma'am, does your hair grow that way?" The teacher just ignored him. Bill was persistent, "Ma'am, does your hair grow that way?" She continued teaching without acknowledging his comment. Bill stood up beside his desk, and asked yet a third time, "Ma'am, does your hair grow that way?"

The teacher, getting a little irate by this time, sternly said, "Young man, sit down and be quiet!"

"No ma'am, I am not sitting down until you answer my question."

"Young man, I said sit down now," the teacher insisted.

"My mother says you should answer my question," Bill said very matter-of-factly. "She says I should always tell the truth and answer questions when people ask me. I think you should too." he persisted, still standing beside that little desk.

The third grader? He is Bill Morrison, and today he is running for Congress to replace Marsha Blackburn. I am voting for him because, like he did in that third grade classroom, he will stand up and demand answers. He will not back down. Never has. Never will.

Janice, Bolivar