Taking a look back plus a question,

It's been 46 years on this February 27th that we became a family. For Mom and I, it wasn't just her or me, or mine and yours. We became <u>us</u> and that we were all in this together. I know it sounds a little corny, but what I used to say, and what actually still say today is the old "3 Musketeers" quote: "We are all for one and one for all!".

Right at the start Mom and I not only understood, but we firmly believed that this wasn't going to be easy. We knew that there would problems early on, and as a family we were going to have to adjust to things that most people couldn't even fathom.

As the years passed, what had become evident is the glaring fact that we were all so very different. Not only did some of us drink coffee with cream and sugar, but some of us actually drink it black. And, would you believe that some of us don't even drink coffee at all? And the list of differences goes on and on, from favorite ice cream flavors, drinks of choice (beer, wine, or??), pizza toppings, and then all the way down to one's religious or political beliefs.

While most of these differences seem very generic, it seems that when it comes to the religious and/or political beliefs, emotions get all jacked up. Why this happens, I feel is not necessarily important to look at right now, but how to categorize or handle these differences is extremely essential to our family unity and our relationship

It is our firm belief that protection our family unit and how we treat each other is most important. This includes respecting the decisions that the others make: whether they put cream in their coffee, they like mushrooms on pizza, they belong to, or do not belong to a particular religion or church, or even if they support one political group or another. It our firm belief that <u>NONE</u> of these decisions makes any of any of us a bad person because we are all, in our own way trying to be the best that we can be while treating others the way we wish to be treated. This is how Mom and I were brought up and that's what we worked to instill in all you guys.

This brings me to the question of your isolation. I'm having a hard time understanding just what you are trying to accomplish by these actions. So please help me understand, what are the long-term goals that you are hoping to bring about by isolating yourself and not speaking to Mom or I? You do know that Mom loves you and that I love you. Please help me to understand where you are hoping to take our relationship.

I've also linked a recording of a person that I truly miss and love more than he could ever imagine.

Please click (<u>HERE</u>)

All Our Love and a Happy 46th Anniversary, Mom & Dad