

## Love Dare – *Daring to Love Your Parents* – Day 28

### “Love’s Motivation”

What is your motivation for doing any of these “Love Dares?” If your motivation is just to be a good son or daughter the motivation wears off after a week or so because it may not seem like things are working all that well. This type of motivation is similar to that of someone losing weight. If the only motivation is to lose weight the desire soon fades away. It’s easier to keep doing what you have been doing. But if the motivation is to serve someone else then it takes on a whole new meaning. If I want to lose weight so that I can be active with my kids or so that I can grow old with my wife then it takes on a whole new meaning.

So where does your motivation to love others come from? This whole loving others gig is not an easy thing! This motivation for loving others must come from our understanding of God’s love for us. A motivation to bring Him honor and glory and to serve Him.

As it turns out, however, the relationship between parents and children isn’t the only thing enhanced by letting God become your driving motivation. Consider the following areas where pleasing Him should become our goal:

**Work.** “Do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men” (Colossians 3:23)

**Service.** “Obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord” (Colossians 3:22)

**Everything.** Work hard at “whatever you do...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve” (Colossians 3:23-24)

**Marriage.** “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord” (Colossians 3:18). “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25).

So our motivation to love our parents should come from our desire to serve and honor God. If we can begin to understand God’s love for us then our motivation to love others, forgive others, and sacrifice for others will not be hard work but a joy to do. We have the opportunity to be a witness for Christ to others by the way we love them. If you don’t understand God’s love and sacrifice for you it makes it impossible to love and sacrifice for others.

**The Love Dare Challenge:** Spend time thinking about and reading scripture concerning God’s love for us. Why would God have His son go through so much hurt, pain and sacrifice? Because of his love for us. Spend some time thinking about God’s love for you and how you in turn can show that love to others.

**Pray:** That you would have the right motivation to love your parents. That it would be an unending motivation no matter how they might treat you or their response to what you have been trying to do.