

Love Dare – Daring to Love your parents!!

As I have talked with students over the years and last year had students answer some questions, one thing constantly repeated itself. “I can’t seem to get along with my parents, we are always at odds.” I talk to way too many young people who tell me that their parents won’t give them any freedom to do what they want to do. In the conversation I learn that they are always pushing the rules or limits the parents have set and given their parents multiple reasons not to trust them. Freedom always requires trust! If trust has been broken, then freedom will always be limited. If a track record of trust has been established, then freedom naturally follows. Many young people want expanded freedom, but continue to give their parents plenty of reason for doubt and mistrust. They can’t figure out why they can’t get more freedom. The answer is really quite simple, establish a track record of trust and watch the freedom of your life expand! Come home before curfew, be where you say you will be, hang out with friends who are known to have a good reputation, and obey the rules of your home. Be open and honest about what you are doing, don’t leave room for doubt in your parents mind. Tell the whole truth, not just the part that you want them to hear. These are just a few simple tips on getting the freedom you so desire.

There are also some of you that have had some pretty rough things happen in your family and you may not have a good relationship with your parents or one parent. I understand that there can be a lot of hurt, pain and resentment towards them. I believe that living out God’s Word will help to heal some of that pain and hurt in your life.

Well, I believe the most fundamental proclamation in the Bible for young people is to honor and obey their parents. At this point in your life, it’s the role that God has given you to play.

Ephesians 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Colossians 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

God is very clear in his instruction to children. We are to obey our parents because this pleases the Lord.

Unfortunately we also see in scripture what we are seeing in the world today.

Mark 13:12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.”

II Timothy 3:1-5 “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control,

brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

Unfortunately this is perpetuated in our society in music, tv, and movies and even among friends. Everyone gets together and starts griping about their parents and all of a sudden my parents aren't any good either. We tend to feed off of each other and therefore we make our parents out to be something they are not. You have to be very careful who you listen to.

God has placed parents in the authority figure role in your life. What happens if we don't obey the authority figures in our lives? Why is it so important that we learn to listen to authority when we are young?

If you will learn to listen to and respect authority, you will be able to keep a job. You will be respected by those in authority. You will be counted on by those people.

For some of you these next 40 days will just be reinforcement for what you are already doing! For some of you these next 40 days will be life transforming!

Warning!!!! The ideas mentioned over the next 40 days won't have immediate results. Your parents will be so shocked by the change in your attitude and behavior that it will probably take them 30 days or 60 or 90 days for them to stop trying to figure out what planet they are on and who exactly you are. (Some parent's may even put in a missing persons report because they are sure that this kid is not the one they have been dealing with for the past couple of years!!!) They will also be very suspicious that it is just some fluke of nature that won't last! I will make a promise to you, if you live this stuff out consistently over the next 40 days you will see some amazing results. How can I promise you this? Because this is how God asks us to live, and his ways always work!

Please don't stop in 40 days, make these things part of your life and you will enjoy wonderful relationships with your parents, friends, bosses and someday your spouse.

Ideas, lines and inspiration for this series adapted from the book “The Love Dare” written by Stephen & Alex Kendrick.