

Love Dare – *Daring to Love Your Parents* – Day 37

“Love tries to understand”

You need to try to understand your parents; they used to be rational and intelligent people! Why are they so irrational and make no sense whatsoever? It's because of you!!!! When your parents got married they were rational and intelligent people but then you came along. The fumes from all those dirty diapers started to fog up their brains and then you started pulling razors off the bathroom counter and sticking your head in the toilet. You may have even tried to swallow a few legos. This was the beginning of the messing up of your parents. The beginning of all their worry and stress! This is also when the “No” response was deeply implanted into their brain! “No” don't touch the hot stove. “No” don't run with that knife. “No” don't belly flop off the couch onto your brother! Do you see how this response got started, and now they can't shut it off instantly.

Having to deal with all of these traumatic events is what caused your parents to constantly worry about you. This was the beginning of the little worry gremlins that now live in their heads. You leave the house for 30 minutes and all of a sudden they are thinking:

- You've been hurt in a car accident.
- You've been kidnapped by perverts.
- Aliens are using your body for scientific experiments.
- You've run away to Los Angeles to sell yourself on the street.

It doesn't matter that you can't get to Los Angeles in thirty minutes from where you live. The gremlin doesn't have to present reasonable ideas. They only have to be horrible. Do you see why your parents are a little weird? The trauma of diapers and the little gremlin that lives in their head has caused them to be a little weird.

Bill Cosby has a hilarious routine where he presents evidence that all children have brain damage. His premise is that no matter what question they are asked, kids always respond with “I dunno.” He may be right – but I think it's safe to say that the damage we suffer as parents is even more severe. We say things that make no sense. Parents shout things like, “If you cut your legs off playing around with that lawnmower, don't come running to me!” Even little kids know you can't run without legs.

I don't have actual brain damage, and neither do your parents. But we have become accustomed to responding to situations by saying things that don't make a lot of sense. You can take comfort in the fact that this disease does not affect just your parents. It affects all parents. I know you won't take any comfort in this next fact, but listen anyway: The disease is hereditary and someday you will have it too.

The point? Admit that your parents are a little strange and allow them that. Part of that strangeness was brought about by loving and raising you!

Most parents want to be good parents. They don't want to fail. They want to provide a good home, and they feel guilty when things go wrong. Talk to them about what you are learning in this series. Here are some questions to get you started.

The Love Dare Challenge:

Mom, I am reading this great stuff by Jeff that says sometimes parents say no just because they are worried that bad things might happen to their kids. Why do parents worry so much? Do you ever worry about me?

Pray: That God would help you to be honest in communication with your parents.