

# Shadrach Youth Ministry

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## The Best Gift You Can Ever Give Your Parents by Dennis Rainey

Report by Chelsea Johnson

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12

“Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise: that it may go well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” Ephesians 6:1-3

“Ye shall fear [revere] every man his mother, and his father...” Leviticus 19:3

These verses are only a few of God’s commands to children to honour and obey their parents. Honour is a big deal to God; notice the promises accompanying obedience to His commands: a long life, not only that, but a good one, for it says, “...it will go well with thee...” There are also some devastating consequences for disobedience to these commands stated in Exodus 21:15, 17 - this is serious business!

As I read Dennis Rainey’s book “The Best Gift You Can Ever Give Your Parents,” I became convinced of my duty to honour and obey my parents. So often we base our obedience to God’s command to honour and obey our parents on if we think they’re worthy or deserving. God didn’t put any “ifs” or “buts” in this command – there is absolutely no option here!

Mr. Rainey points out that in our culture today, honour is bestowed on sports heroes, musicians, movie stars, and once in a while someone who performed an act of heroism or courage; but those who do not receive honour are those in authority. Plato said, “What is honoured in a land will be cultivated there.” Hmm...

What exactly does honour mean? Rainey explains it this way: “To honour someone [means], ‘I weigh you down with respect and prestige. I place upon you great worth and value.’” He also gives a list of what honouring your parents should look like. Here’s a few of them:

- Choosing to place great value on your relationship with them
- Taking the initiative to improve the relationship
- Recognizing what they’ve done right in your life and have passed on to you as their legacy
- Seeing them through the eyes of Christ, with understanding and compassion
- Forgiving them as Christ has forgiven you

The responsibility to initiate the relationship with my parents was a new thought for me. Realizing that my actions and words affected my relationship with them in a positive or negative way, I could no longer expect them to deal with my highs and lows simply because they were my parents. As I imagined myself in their position, appreciation surged through my heart for all they had done, all they had sacrificed.

I’ve begun to realize that I’m not the only one who has needs – my parents do too. As God is dealing with the self-centered “give-ME” attitude in my heart, I’m growing more aware of opportunities to meet needs in my parents’ lives. I’ve also noticed a greater desire to honor them springing up inside me – God is helping me to put that desire into action.

“Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” Ephesians 6:2

*“If we once get above our Bibles, and cease making the written Word of God sole rule both as to faith and practice, we shall soon lie open to all manner of delusion, and be in great danger of making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. Our blessed Lord, though He had the Spirit of God without measure, yet always was governed by, and fought the devil with, “It is written.” (George Whitefield)*

## Witnessing Report By Luke Johnson

A young guy Keifer, who is 19 years old, came to work for my dad & me for a few days. This gave me a perfect opportunity to witness. The first day he worked for us, I was able to tell him about Jesus, and what He did for him. Keifer had never heard the gospel before, so he was very interested in it. I didn't talk to him long, when he started sharing his life story with me. He has already had a very rough life. When he was younger he was into drugs, and gangs in L.A. I continued witnessing to him over the next couple of days, and he now wants to come to church with me. I thank the Lord that he has been using me to witness to Keifer.

### **A Word from Pastor Schultze...**

#### Honor Your Parents

You have heard about the two tables of stone that Moses received from God. It is commonly believed that God put the first four commandments on the first table, because they all talk about man's relationship with God. This second set of tables deals with man's relationship with man and that begins with the need for the children to honor their parents. In reference to the man to man relationship, Christianity begins in the home! In reference to the man to man relationship the blessings begin with a son or daughter having the right attitude and disposition towards father and mother. If the blessings don't start there, do you think they will start anywhere else?

So you cannot get right with God without getting right with your parents. Now, notice there is no obligation laid down here for the father or mother to be godly, to be civil, to be good examples in parenting. Had God set up some standards here for the parents to be worthy to be honored, then the children would have rights to become judges of their parents. No, the word is honor your parents no matter what and you will be blessed. Isn't that wonderful? How blessed would a village become if all of the children in that one village would honor their parents? Could it be rightly said that all of our economic, our crime, our social, our security problems would be solved, or mostly solved if children would just honor their parents. We have one out of every 100 adults behind bars. How many of these do you think are behind bars because they did not honor their parents?

What does it mean to honor our parents? It means that we will not get involved in anything that will make our parents rightly ashamed of us. It means that we will listen to any wise council they may have. It means that we will be all for God. If you honor your father and mother you will have a tail wind the rest of your life. If not, one thing after another will go wrong in your life. You will have a head wind all the way to the grave. The choice is yours.

(Pastor Schultze didn't know we had Chelsea's report on honoring your parents already in the newsletter when he sent us the above article on the same subject!)

The Fall and Rise of Christian Standards by David Kidd was a very interesting book. As the cover says, it helps you to think biblically about dress and appearance. It was mostly geared towards women, but the Lord showed me several things through it. One example would be that standards are a good thing. Mr. Kidd skillfully exposes the common deception that we can dress any way we like since there is freedom in Christ. The Lord showed me that, although we do have freedom, it does not mean that we can dress like the world or be total slob. Another question he covers is, what if I'm not convicted? We can't go by our feelings, we have to simply walk in obedience to the Bible and then true freedom comes.

I am grateful that I was able to read this book, it was a help to me. —Jordan Clark

*“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him...”* (Ps. 37:3–7) Trust...Delight...Commit...Rest...How are you doing?

#### **Reports due: 3rd Trimester- May 16, 2008**

Book Report (choose from Booklist)  
Servanthood and Witnessing Reports  
Memorize: Hebrews 12:1–14  
Shadrach Manual Report #3: Fruitfulness