

# Shadrach Youth Ministry

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## A Wedding...

What a glorious weekend we had celebrating the marriage of Jenn Johnson and Nicky Farmer! No one there could possibly have missed the fact that Jenn and Nicky wanted all the glory to go to God. In some ways, it was like a royal wedding to us common folk. ☺ Beautiful wedding gown. Elegant tuxes. Top-notch dinner served to 250 people with beautiful chandeliers hanging overhead. The bride and bridesmaids all with their hair done professionally and elaborately. Live music throughout the reception. We all enjoyed that, but those things in themselves weren't enough to make this wedding glorious. What made it glorious was that all the celebrating was in praise to God and not to man. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so strongly felt throughout. Tears were shed by believer and non-believer alike. The love of God was felt so intensely that even those who cannot bring themselves to utter the name of Jesus were captivated and wanted to be drawn into the event. And to think that our heavenly wedding will be multiplied many times greater in the intensity of love and fascination and the presence of God which was felt there. We won't have to worry about time limits or parting ways then!

How do you have a wedding that glorifies Christ? Even most of the Christian world think that in order to have a romantic wedding you have to show too much skin on the bridal party. They think that a secular love song thrown in will add to the mystique of the moment. Are we desiring to glorify Christ in our weddings or do we only desire to *celebrate our earthly love with our spouse to be*? So, back to our question of how do we glorify Christ in our wedding? Isn't our love for our mate simply an earthly reflection of the love of Christ for us? Yes, and if we focus on glorifying Christ's love for mankind, then we will experience a love in the heavenly, ethereal sense that opens up new kingdoms of possibility and discovery for us and for all involved ... instead of making everyone simply feel sensual ... yuck (in comparison)! I think all of us who were there would agree that our hearts left the place with more love for Christ and each other, a greater desire to do things God's way and a thrill and wonder in the greatness of the Kingdom. A focus on sensuality won't do that. Nicky and Jenn had as many hymns and choruses as possible with a touch of classical music. The brides and bridesmaids dresses were altered to be more modest. Those are important elements, but is that enough to bring the Spirit of God down as we felt it last weekend? No, it isn't. *It takes lives of sacrifice and obedience*. Which brings a burden for souls. Which brings a desire to see the Kingdom furthered – not our own selfish agendas. It takes responding and not resisting to all that Jesus wants for us – in the little things like attitudes, choices with our time and friendships and controlling our thought life. Even though there was great excellence in the celebration, we can't forget that there was death behind it all, which brought the sweetness. There were humiliating choices that Nicky and Jenn had to make for the sake of Christ. They had to give up what they wanted and what others wanted for them over and over again in order to come to a place where they only wanted what Jesus wanted. Death brings life. This event could not have been what it was any other way. I know Nicky and Jenn haven't 'arrived' spiritually; there is still more dying to be done. Yet, in remembering the wedding, let's remember what glorious life will come in our lives and other lives when death to what we want and desire is voluntarily taken. –Karin

The rest of the letter contains assignments done by some of those who did Dare to be a Daniel. These are listings of attributes the Scriptures indicate men and women are to have. This is appropriate as this month is June and considered the 'wedding month'. Please take time to not only read these but also to meditate on the words.

### Christa: A Godly Woman

- (1) is quiet and submissive;
- (2) does not have authority over a man;
- (3) dresses modestly;
- (4) continues in faith, love, and holiness;
- (5) is reverent in the way she lives;
- (6) does not slander others;
- (7) is not addicted to much wine;
- (8) teaches what is good;
- (9) loves her husband and children;
- (10) is pure;
- (11) is self-controlled;
- (12) is busy at home;
- (13) is kind;
- (14) is subject to her husband – these are the attributes of a godly woman.

### Lee: Attributes of a Godly Man

A godly man's attributes include the following:

1. Attaining faith and good doctrine. (I Tim. 4:6)
2. Exercising godliness. (I Tim. 4:7)
3. Laboring and suffering reproach because of his trust in God. (I Tim. 4:10)
4. Being an example in speech, love, spirit, faith, and purity. (I Tim. 4:12)
5. Educating himself in and meditating on doctrine and exhortation. (I Tim. 4:13,15)
6. Continuing in the doctrine – thereby saving himself and those that hear him. (I Tim. 4:16)
7. Not following worldly counsel or adopting the ways of sinners. (Psalms 1:1)
8. Delighting in and meditating on God's laws. (Psalms 1:2)
9. Growing in the Lord by abiding in Him. (Psalms 1:3)

## List of Character Traits of a Godly Man

Written by: Jordan Litchfield

### 1 Tim. 4:6-16

1. A godly man encourages, exhorts, and reviews the ways of God with other Christians.
2. Because of this, he is constantly being nourished on the words of truth and instruction that he has received.
3. He has nothing to do with godless, foolish, or profane old wives' tales, myths, or fiction.
4. Rather, he spends his time and energy in training, disciplining, and exercising vigorously in the pursuit of godliness, piety, and spiritual fitness.
5. Possesses the awareness that physical exercise profits only a little;
6. But also knowing that godliness is profitable in every way (heart, mind, soul, and body) and for all things (job, studies, work, relationships, etc.).
7. His spiritual vision encompasses eternity, for he perceives that godliness holds promise for both the present life and the one which is to come.
8. The godly man puts his trust in the Word and promises of God, and fully accepts divine revelation.
9. He becomes weary, tired, and exhausted through labor, toil, and grief; he strives, struggles, and contends as if for a prize; he suffers reproach and is reviled.
10. And he continues in all this because:
  - a. He believes that God is alive;
  - b. That He is the Savior of all men;
  - c. That He is Savior chiefly of those who believe and trust in Him.
11. The man of God is faithful to encourage, remind, exhort, and (if in authority) command his fellow brothers to be devoted to these things.
12. Because of his Christ-like life, the young man does not allow others look down on him or think any less of him, but rather, he sets the example in godliness.
13. He is a model (or a pattern that can be followed after); five different areas are listed:
  - a. In speech – no idle words, criticism, harshness – but rather words that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, bringing a good report, virtuous, and mixed with praise;

### Morgan: Attributes of a Godly Woman

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Modestly dressed                | 16. Pure                   |
| 2. Decent and adorned in propriety | 17. Busy at home           |
| 3. Dressed with good deeds         | 18. Kind                   |
| 4. Learning in quietness           | 19. Subject to her husband |
| 5. Learning in full submissiveness |                            |
| 6. Silent (not teaching)           |                            |
| 7. Bearing children                |                            |
| 8. Having faith                    |                            |
| 9. Loving                          |                            |
| 10. Holy                           |                            |
| 11. Reverent                       |                            |
| 12. Teaching good things           |                            |
| 13. Loving her husband             |                            |
| 14. Loving her children            |                            |
| 15. Self-controlled                |                            |

- b. In conduct – keeping his outward life in accordance with the Spirit of Christ, keeping all God's commandments always;
  - c. In love – loving God with the entire heart, soul, mind, and strength, and his neighbor as himself;
  - d. In faith – full of faith and trust in God, never doubting, never wavering, but always keeping his eyes fixed on God and his Word;
  - e. In purity – having a pure heart and mind, devoid of sin.
14. A godly man is devoted and faithful in attendance to church.
  15. He does not neglect the gifts (both innate and assets) that God has given him; rather, he learns through the leadership of the Holy Spirit how to invest them in the Kingdom of God.
  16. The man of God diligently practices, studies, cultivates, and meditates on what he has learned.
  17. Furthermore, he is devoted, absorbed, and wholly given over to what he has been taught.
  18. He is so faithful in all this that his progress and the profit he gains from it are manifest to all who are watching.
  19. A godly man keeps a close watch on his life and what he says.
  20. He does this because he knows that what he does and what he says effects the outcome of the souls about him.

### Ps. 1:1-3

1. The godly man does not walk in the counsel or advice of the wicked, nor does he stand in their ways or customs, nor does he sit or dwell among scoffers or those who deride.
2. His delight and pleasure is the law, teaching, and instruction of God, and he meditates intensely within his heart upon God's law day and night. He is deeply passionate about it.
3. The result of all this is the following:
  - a. He is firmly planted by streams of living water;
  - b. He yields fruit in season and at the appropriate time (not the time that he might pick, but God's time);
  - c. His leaf does not wither or fade;
  - d. Whatsoever he does succeeds, prospers, and is profitable and strong.

**Retreat is at Kentucky  
Mountain Bible College**  
in Vancleve, KY  
Dates: June 19-24