

GET TO KNOW DENNIS RAINEY



His wisdom on marriage and parenting is shared with thousands of listeners each day on *FamilyLife Today* ... but here's an inside glimpse at what makes Dennis Rainey's heart beat faster when it comes to family and faith.

When you headed to college, what did you think might be your career path?

Honestly, I was clueless. Spiritually lost and without direction. I don't know that I ever had a conscious thought of what I'd do after college. My dad had a career in mind for me, however, he wanted me to be a lawyer. Jesus Christ gave me eternal life and a mission worth my life.

What's been the hardest aspect of leading a ministry that has flourished as FamilyLife has—presuming you never imagined what would transpire in the early days.

Trusting God for people and money. I've said many times, that if I didn't have to deal with people issues and money, the ministry would be fantastic! LOL...actually most of my growth has occurred as a result of learning how to trust God with finding the right people, personnel issues, and finances.

You've interviewed many guests for the broadcast—anybody who “stopped you in your tracks” with their story?

Coach John Wooden—we didn't talk about basketball, but his dad and family that he grew up in. Also, Dr. Jerry Sittser—his wife of 20 years, 4 year old daughter, and mother were all killed in a car wreck. His story and book, “A Grace Disguised,” overhauled my view of “loss.”

There were probably many but can you name someone who filled the role of spiritual mentor in your life?

In addition to my dad, three men: H.D. McCarty, Bill Bright, Howard Hendricks.

You have a large family—how do you make sure you “tend” your grown children and now 21 grandchildren given the size of the tribe?

Over the past dozen years none of our 6 children have lived near us but live in four states. They fled the penitentiary. As a result, I don't feel like we've done a great job with all of them.

However, last summer we took a 1600 mile road trip to the Creation Museum with five of the oldest grandkids. It was a truly great experience...teaching them about a biblical worldview, experiencing the museum, going on a world class ZIP LINE with them, Graeters Ice Cream, and seeing the spot where the ARK Museum will be built.

Besides having a strong personal relationship with Christ, are there any attributes that you'll encourage your grandchildren to seek in their future spouse?

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

“ Praise the Lord!
Blessed is the man who fears
the Lord, who greatly delights in
his commandments!
His offspring will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the
upright will be blessed. ”

Psalm 112:1-2

Teachability...it's the opposite of pride and at the core of humility. Knowing how to resolve conflict (how to ask for forgiveness and grant forgiveness)...42 years into marriage with Barbara I've never outgrown my need to admit I am wrong and ask for forgiveness.

A Great Commission mindset...I cannot imagine doing life and being on two different missions. It doesn't mean that you have to be doing the same thing, you just have to agree that you both are going to be a part of the Great Commission.

What “one thing” do you hope you've instilled in your sons as they now are

dads as well? To be intentional. To pass on the truth of God and their experience of God, a dad must deliberately keep modeling, instructing, and infecting their children with a love for Christ on a daily basis...intentionally.

You have a very demanding schedule with FamilyLife. What gives you the most “uplift” when you need refreshment? A 3 or 4 day getaway with Barbara. Fishing in Alaska. Hunting... Arkansas, South Dakota, Montana... life giving.

What characteristic did you most admire in your own dad? #1. He was NOT a victim. When he was 13 or 14 years old his father deserted and divorced dad's mom, dad, and his other 8 brothers and sisters. In those days it was a matter of survival for a family. Dad helped provide for his mom and family in the years that followed. I never heard a negative word from my dad about his dad. Instead, he became a great father, not perfect, but a remarkable dad to me.

#2 He honored his mother. He used to go visit his mom after dinner on a regular basis. He modeled the 5th Commandment. She lived to be 101.

#3 His life defined the word “integrity.” He lived his entire life within 3 miles of the log cabin where he was born. At his funeral one man commented, “I never heard a negative word about ‘Hook Rainey.’” (They called him ‘Hook’ because he had a wicked curve ball...the ONLY thing about him that was wicked!)

What's the biggest fish you've caught?

350 lb White Sturgeon on the Columbia River.

You've travelled the country—and the world—quite a bit. What's left that's on your personal “bucket list” to visit?

Barbara and I would like to do the Fjords in Norway and tour the Scandinavian countries...where her family is from.

What always makes you laugh?

When Barbara laughs...I ALWAYS LAUGH!!!!
2nd place? When my daughter, Rebecca Jean Joy Susie Q Rainey Mutz, laughs... her giggle box ALWAYS invites others to join her!