

Who Does Chores in Your Home?

I. Our work was always part of God's plan — it matters now and eternally.

- God was the first to work.
- Work is not a result of the fall.
- We will work with God for all eternity.
- God has expectations for our work — I Thessalonians 3:10 we're told, *"If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat."*

II. God equips us with unique skills and passions that He intends us to use in work.

- God gives us different gifts for different jobs — Romans 12:6-8.
- We should never say "I can't" when instructed to do a task.
- God will never put us into situation in which it's impossible to glorify Him.

III. Who we are as we work is more important than how we work.

- Explanation completing our chores to the glory of God is going to require that we do the right things in the right way for the right reasons in the right power. This means we need a relationship with God, know how to glorify Him, and desire to do so.
- Colossians 3:23, *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."*
- The Lord is more interested in humble, submissive people than He is "strong" or "talented" people with their own plans for how life is to be lived.

IV. Our work should be focused on serving others.

- Philippians 2:3 says, *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."*
- When you wash the dishes to the glory of God, you're accomplishing four things:
 - I'm pleasing the Lord by fulfilling His will for my life.
 - I'm participating in necessary family life.
 - I'm freeing up the rest of the family members to work on other chores.
 - I'm serving everyone who ate dinner. While I'm serving them by washing their plates, someone else is serving us by vacuuming where we've walked, another is serving us by putting away the food we're going to eat later. And someone else is probably serving us by washing the toilet we're all going to use but the end of the day.

V. We must have a godly rhythm of work and rest in order to work well.

- In Genesis 1 and 2 God created Adam, had him name the animals, created Eve, and then their first full 24 hour day of life was spent resting with God.
- There is such a thing as too much work. God created us to work, but He also created us to rest.
- There needs to be more family play time, more relaxation, more down time.

VI. Our work multiplies in relationship.

- It's easier to serve others when you have a good relationship.
- Working together with others makes chores easier.
- Doing chores with people you love makes the chore more fun.
- Acts 2:42-48, "*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*"

VII. Work is a gift to be enjoyed and shared.

- A family who works this way will find chores to be a joy. It gives them an opportunity to serve God, serve others, enjoy each other, keep the house decent and in order, and exercise the gifts God's given them.
- Isn't the kind of house in which you'd like to live?

VIII. Bonus Point: the amount of work done outside the house does not exempt us from work inside the house.

- I understand the fact that I work over 60 hours a week in order to provide for my family, but that's out of sight, out of mind. If I refused to participate in family chores, it's very likely my children might well think I'm just being lazy or selfish.
- Not only that, I have to challenge us parents to get our minds straight on this point. True, many of your work outside of the home for 8-12 hours a day. But what are your kids doing all day? They're working for 8-12 hours at school, practices, rehearsals, lessons, and sometimes actual paying jobs.
- *I believe that the amount of work done outside the house does not exempt us from work inside the house.*
- Family chores are a family thing.
- Now, the family who works less outside of the home can serve the ones who work more outside of the home by offering to do more of the housework, but all I'm saying is that we need to stop excusing our lack of participation in housework because of the amount of outside-of-the-housework.
- In addition to the 60 hours of work I do, and the work I do for TLP and church, I still have time to help with laundry, cleaning up around the house, vacuuming, yard work, and dishes.
- It's my house. I'm the one of the most mature people in the home. I need to do my part.
- We all do.