

# Workers at Home

by Betty Dahlhausen



*Therefore I want younger widows [women] to get married, bear children, **keep house** and give the enemy no occasion for reproach.*

~ 1 Timothy 5:14

... to be sensible, pure, **workers at home**. . .

~ Titus 2:5

	Titus 2:5	I Timothy 5:14
<i>NASB</i>	<i>Workers at home</i>	<i>Keep house</i>
<i>NIV</i>	<i>To be busy at home</i>	<i>To manage their homes</i>
<i>KJV</i>	<i>Keepers at home</i>	<i>Guide the house</i>
<i>NKJV</i>	<i>Homemakers</i>	<i>Manage the house</i>
<i>ESV</i>	<i>Working at home</i>	<i>Manage their households</i>
	oikouros /oy-koo-ros'/ 2 words combined: <i>work and house</i>	oikodespoteō /oy-kod-es-pot-eh'-o/ 2 words combined: <i>master and house</i>
	Our home is our place of work.	Our work is being the manager of our household.

# Rule the Realm

Managing the home is a very important task; you're building your house (Proverbs 14:1), an honorable name for the family (Proverbs 22:1), and the next generation (Proverbs 31:25).

## Why Work?

- Work is good. It was commanded before the fall. It is NOT part of the curse!

*Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it (Genesis 2:15).*

- It's a necessary part of life. The sooner you and your children learn to like it, the better.

*. . . but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so we would not be a burden . . . (2 Thessalonians 3:8).*

*In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty (Proverbs 14:23).*

*He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who pursues worthless things lacks sense (Proverbs 12:11).*

- Your testimony is affected by your work ethic.

*The deeds of a man's hands will return to him (Proverbs 12:14).*

*Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings. . . (Proverbs 22:29).*

- It gives many opportunities for family members to serve one another

The way up is down. Lord, make us masters of ourselves that we may be the servants of others.

## Who Works?

- Everyone, anyone who wants to eat, that is. ☺

*. . . If anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all . . . Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).*

- Assigning chores to children builds family unity, gives children purpose, helps them learn time-management skills, helps fill their day, teaches self-denial & personal responsibility, builds character, . . . and last but not least, gets the job done! Don't cheat them out of this necessary life training.
- Children contribute to the mess so must contribute to the clean-up.

*Where no oxen are, the manger is clean, but much revenue comes by the strength of the ox (Proverbs 14:4).*

# Willing to Work

- Proverbs 31:13

*She works with her hands in delight . . . (puts her hands joyfully to work, makes her hands active after the pleasure of her heart, works with willing hands, merry hands, inspired hands).*

- Proverbs 31:11-12

*The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

- Proverbs 31:27

*She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

“She chooses to give of herself, her mind, and her strength, to do the work and make the necessary contribution so her husband will have no lack of gain. She operates her life and home in a way that routinely benefits him with good.”

~ Elizabeth George

- 1 Thessalonians 4:11

*Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands.*

- Don't be a financial liability.
- The people first and then the place

# Ways to Work

- Plan your work and work your plan!
- Chore Chart
  1. 1 Corinthians 10:31

*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

2. Check with your husband first and see what he wants done.
  3. Children choose job categories.
  4. Rotate ALL children through ALL chores.
  5. Keep it simple.
- Tie in chores with meal/snack time.

*A worker's appetite works for him, for his hunger urges him on (Proverbs 16:26).*

- Children do what you inspect, not expect. Be reasonable, but enforce "excellence" at each level

*The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor (Proverbs 12:24).*

Whatever your *hand* finds to do, do it with your *might* . . . (Ecclesiastes 9:10 ).

"If you don't have time to do it right,  
you sure don't have time to do it over."

- Get organized!
  1. Declutter – a place for everything and everything in its place
  2. Color-coding
  3. Categorize toys
  4. Kitchen/Bathroom
  5. Buddy system



- Training grounds – personal property, encourage responsibility early on
- Work alongside / make it fun
- The timer is your friend!
- ENCOURAGE – reward initiative
- Seasons of life – Just say No!

“Ask God for a love for the roles of wife, mother, and home manager. Only the love of God filling you to overflowing can supply you with the necessary emotional endurance to *forego personal ease* and sustain the *relentless* activity of a *lifetime of enterprise for the good of others.*”

~ Elizabeth George

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# Supplementary Material:

## The 21 Rules Of This House

by Gregg Harris

### In THIS house,

1. We obey God.
2. We love, honor and pray for one another.
3. We tell the truth.
4. We consider one another's interests ahead of our own.
5. We speak quietly and respectfully with one another.
6. We do not hurt one another with unkind words or deeds.
7. When someone needs correction, we correct him in love.
8. When someone is sorry, we forgive him.'
9. When someone is sad, we comfort him.
10. When someone is happy, we rejoice with him.
11. When we have something nice to share, we share it.
12. When we have work to do, we do it without complaining.
13. We take good care of everything that God has given us.
14. We do not create unnecessary work for others.
15. When we open something, we close it.
16. When we take something out, we put it away.
17. When we turn something on, we turn it off.
18. When we make a mess, we clean it up.
19. When we do not know what to do, we ask.
20. When we go out, we act just as if we were in this house.
21. When we disobey or forget any of the 21 Rules of This House, we accept the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

## Ways to Measure Your Focus when Considering a Ministry Outside the Home

1. Do you always have to shove husband and children aside to fulfill some ministry project?
2. Do you often shift responsibilities to someone else? (Husband real handy to do things you can't get done)
3. Do you find it irritating when you have to meet the needs of your family?
4. Do you find yourself so preoccupied that you aren't aware of the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of your family? (There will be times when this occurs, but is it characteristic of your life?)
5. Are you too busy to love and discipline your children?
6. Are you so distracted that you cannot emotionally enjoy your family?
7. Is your family a burden? Does it keep you from doing what you always wanted to do?

~Linda Minnick, lecture on *Balancing Homemaking with Other Responsibilities*

## Five Questions to Ask when Considering Opportunities Outside the Home

1. What are my reasons for considering this opportunity? Are they selfish or God-honoring?
2. Will pursuing this venture glorify God and honor the gospel?
3. Is this an undertaking that will help my husband?
4. Will it enhance and enrich the lives of my family?
5. Does this endeavor hinder my role as caretaker of my home?

~Carolyn Mahaney, *Feminine Appeal*