

Angie's Marriage Column – December 26, 2007

Question: Should a wife work outside the home?

Answer: Each family is different and has different needs and therefore the family must look at what values they cherish and what is important to them.

When we look at the issue of a wife working outside the home, at first glance it seems natural and many wives do work. But if we take a closer look at the big picture, and all the different needs of family life, what do we see? We find that it can actually be detrimental to the family as a whole for a wife and mother to work outside the home.

In my personal view, I believe a husband and children are happier and children better adjusted when a wife is home taking care of the home affairs. Everything around the home is much more organized and the family is usually nutritionally well fed and cared for, simply because a woman has more time to spend on these facets of living when she is home.

The saying “a woman's place is in the home” is a well worn out and used cliché, but it is a fact of life. Numerous studies have been done on the overall well-being of the family when a wife stays home rather than works outside of the home, and it is so much better on the family in every aspect that you can think of. It brings happier, healthier, and safer children than if the wife was out working for someone else.

The woman is the heart of her home in every aspect of its management from top to bottom, which makes for a more pleasant living experience for everyone involved. On the reverse side of the coin, a woman who has already worked all day long may feel exhausted and rushed when she does get home in the evening. The family will probably not get wholesome fresh foods cooked for them every night, the children may be in need of motherly attention, and the home may be untidy and in disarray.

Basically, there is no management and organization in the home without the woman tending to the things a woman is meant to tend to, unless the husband is doing it for her, which is not the norm for most households. No one is really doing anything fruitful and productive in the home, therefore, everyone living in it suffers for it.

When I study God's Word in Genesis, it furthers my view of the position a woman should take in her marriage. **And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (Genesis 1:18 KJV)** God made WomAn for Adam, and to be a “**helper**” to him, not to be a helper for someone else. But is that not what a wife is doing when she leaves to go to work everyday? Is she not helping someone other than her husband / family? She most certainly is, at least in the direct sense.

Woman was created to be an emotional encouragement to her husband; to be his companion and lover, to be his best friend and moral support, and to help him to be the

man God designed him to be for his family. “Helper” means to work together as in team effort. I’m not sure how a wife and mother can be those things for her husband and family if she is busy working outside of the home. If a wife must work temporarily because her husband has been laid up in bed or other circumstances preventing him from work, then she will need to work. But there are many industrious ways that households can save money so a wife and mother may stay home and do those things that will make the home front happy and content.

*She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
(Proverbs 31:27 KJV)*

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Until next Wednesday, May God bless you for His glory in His kingdom!
Angie and Frank

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