



# Declutter Your Life

**Most women's magazines** at the store checkout lane tout ideas on dieting and diminishing clutter. Interesting, isn't it? Those two topics seem to plague women. God's Word admonishes us to be a "good steward" and to "be not slothful in business"—a topic not as popular as dieting or getting rid of clutter but very important just the same. Let's talk about clutter in our homes and our "business."

Much of a woman's business revolves around the home or at least the responsibility of "keeping" the home (Titus 2:5)—a God-given role whether single or married. When my house is in order, I work much better throughout the day. I am able to work with a clear mind when my laundry is done, the beds are made, and the dishes are clean. It takes only a few minutes to make a bed but gives hours of satisfaction. You may find that it actually causes you to feel better about yourself; it works for me!

If you need help around the house, ask for it. If you have children, train them to help. When your husband realizes the pressure you are under, he may offer to help if he knows where help is needed. Song of Solomon 2:15 says, it is "the little foxes, that spoil the vines." We can usually handle the big things, but when a lot of little things pile up we feel frustrated and defeated. The "superwoman" of Proverbs 31 sure makes it hard for us ordinary ladies. How can one woman keep up with all of those duties? (Remember: she had servants.)

God is able to use us and our talents best in an orderly fashion. If order is going to prevail in your home, you must be the one to see to it. My two daughters lightened my load tremendously and in the process learned homemaking at an early age. I had my art studio in our home and was able to train my daughters in household duties even as I worked on my art projects.

The Bible has a lot to say about money and the management of it—a topic obviously important to God and included

for our good. One way to declutter your finances is to make a budget and stick to it. Most bills arrive at the same time monthly; it is important to budget your income so that funds are available at the time the bills are due. Late payment of bills can cause late charges, quickly ruining a budget. Overdraft fees charged due to insufficient funds in one's account is like throwing money away. Get your family involved and teach them financial responsibility. If we are slothful in business—even if homemaking is our basic business—it carries over into other areas of our life.

In summary, simplify your life as much as possible. Log your activities for a few days and see where you may be wasting time. Track your finances for a month or so to find where you may be overspending. Then make the changes necessary to have a less cluttered life. ✿

## Check this out!

### Slothfulness

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| What is it?       | Proverbs 21:25 |
| It comes from ... | Ezekiel 16:49  |
| It is dangerous.  | Proverbs 20:13 |
| It can be cured.  | Proverbs 6:6-9 |

- ✿ Lighten up! Declutter your life.
- ✿ Handle one project or item at a time.
- ✿ Schedule clutter-cleaning sessions.
- ✿ Have a place for everything and keep everything in its place.