

Where Is Your Heart?

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Do you love your husband? Do you love your children? Most likely, your response is "Of course I do!" But, is your heart turned fully towards them? Or are you holding part of yourself back?

Now, this is not an easy question to answer, and requires some soul-searching. Let me ask you some questions, and then you can let the Lord show you where YOUR heart is.

What do you see as your ultimate purpose in this life? What are your hopes and dreams? Are you fully immersed with your whole heart and mind in being a wife and mother, or are you marking time waiting for the kids to grow up so you can get on with your "real" life?

What do you make the greatest priority in your day - your husband and children, or THINGS (cleaning, dealing with clutter, etc), or OTHER people (phone calls, visiting, computer chatting via emails or IM, charity work, ministry etc)?? Where is your main focus? What are you thinking about most?

When your husband or child is speaking to you, are you focused on them, and listening to them with your ears AND your mind? Or are you thinking about the tasks you need to get to, the email you need to answer, what Jane from church said to you today?

When your children want you to play with them, are you always "too busy"? When your husband wants to be intimate with you, are you often "too tired"?

How do you feel about the role of being a wife and mother? Do you see yourself as "just" a housewife, or do you see it as a great calling? Do you sometimes wonder if you're missing out on something by staying at home?

Dear friend, have you fully embraced being a wife and mother? Do you see it as THE purpose for your life, THE place where all your talents and giftings can have their fullest and most worthy expression?

Do you sometimes feel inadequate as a wife or home keeper or mother? Who doesn't?! But, if you feel this way often, ask yourself whether as a result you are holding yourself back from your husband and/or children in some way; often if we feel inadequate or like we are doing a bad job, we avoid the thing (or people) that make us feel that way. For example, a parent who feels like they are failing at child training may allow their child to get away with negative behavior and attitudes because dealing with it seems so hard, and they feel like they have no idea what they are doing most of the time. Unfortunately when this happens, the parent's heart tends to be held back too, and the child feels insecure and unsure of the parent's love; the result is worse behavior and attention seeking, and it all becomes a vicious cycle.

Where is YOUR heart? The things you focus on, and the things (or people) you avoid are clues to where your heart really is. What do you treasure most? Remember Jesus said "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What is your treasure? In what do you take the most joy?

If, as you ponder these things, you find your heart is fully turned towards your husband, children and home, rejoice! God will use you and work through you to bless and help your loved ones. Your rewards will be great.

If, however, you find your heart is not fully turned towards your family, then you need to decide whether to do something about that. And what CAN you do? Take it to the One who is in the business of changing hearts! Ask his forgiveness if your heart and thoughts have been wrong, and confess to him your desire to love your husband and children as fully and strongly as God intends for you to do.

Surrender your heart to God and ask him to fill it with his love for your husband and children. ☺ God can do amazing things, including the seemingly impossible! I have personally experienced God's restoration of love grown cold in my heart towards my husband - and the result was far, far better than I could have ever dreamed or imagined!

Dear friend, if you are struggling to fully love your husband or children, or to fully invest yourself - body, soul, heart and mind - in your home, then let God transform you! You'll be so glad you did!

Excerpted from Unit 2 of Goodbye Chaos, Hello Peace!