



Marriage minute

A marriage ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Dividing the load

How do you divide the chores in your house? Do you do it the way your parents did? By your interest or skill? By traditional man or woman roles? It's OK to be honest.

The Bible says, **"To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."** 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7. The Spirit shows up in every believer with different gifts, spiritual gifts, natural abilities, and personality traits. But he always gives "for the common good."

Are you taking those things into account when you divide the load of caring for your household? Just because one of you started doing the laundry 2 years ago or 20 years ago doesn't mean it has to stay that way. Or, maybe your spouse just has the gift of cleaning out the cat litter box and he or she really wants to do that. But maybe not. Maybe it's time to talk about who is doing what.

My research shows that nearly three quarters of married women are dissatisfied with their roles in household management while only a quarter of men feel that way. Those are just statistics. What matters is how your spouse feels about it.

Begin by privately creating two lists: one of the chores you do and one of the chores your spouse does. You have to be brave to do this, and honest and willing to adjust. Get yourself in

the right frame of mind by immersing yourself in the gospel: what Jesus has done to serve you. How he made himself nothing to serve you.

Then you're ready to have an honest conversation about who does what in your household. Try it. You might just find that after all these years, it would really make the most sense for YOU to clean out the litter box!

Household Chores

I do

My Spouse

Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for serving me with all that you are. I am yours and you made it that way. Help me learn to serve my spouse with the gifts you've given me. Amen.

Pastor Randy Hunter
St. Andrew Lead Pastor
for Preaching and Vision