“Did God Direct the Man to Work for the Family and the Woman to Just Stay Home with the Kids?”

Did God really direct the man to work for the family and the woman just to stay home and take care of the kids? Please give supporting verses to your response.

The “big picture” principles are these:

1. God gave Adam the job of cultivating the garden. Work is an intrinsic part of man’s design.

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

2. Eve was created to be a helpmate to Adam; nurturing relationships is an intrinsic part of woman’s design.

> *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” (Gen 2:18)*

3. Men are commanded to take care of their families:

> *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Tim 5:8)*

4. Wives are commanded to take care of their families by caring for them:

> *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching*

> *what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to* ***love their husbands, to love their children,*** *to be sensible, pure,* ***workers at home****, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. (Titus 2:3-5)*

5. The excellent wife in Proverbs 31 (vv. 10-31) did engage in home-based businesses, but her primary focus was on her home and her family. Note that she did not "just stay home and take care of the kids"—she had a broader range of interests and activities than that—but she kept her priorities straight.

Hope this helps.

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries

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