

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

### A Humble Abode

When my husband and I were first married, we lived in a small apartment and had very little furniture. In fact, I can remember using an old “steamer trunk” as a dining room table until we could afford to buy a real one. We were (and still are) of the “old school,” believing that, except for major purchases like a car or house, one did not buy anything until one could afford it. Buying on credit was unthinkable. Consequently, each purchase was a treasure, and I remember polishing the wooden pieces on a weekly basis.

As you might imagine, this didn’t take much time; so most of every weekend was spent exploring the surrounding areas or getting together with friends. We had the time, the energy, and the freedom to pursue life to its fullest.

After four years of living in this apartment, we collected furniture for the living room, dining room, and bedroom...plus lots of odds and ends. So we bought a house. I can still remember how empty this new dwelling seemed, even after all of the things in our apartment had been moved in. I had long since stopped polishing each and every piece of furniture...at least on a weekly basis.

After twenty-eight years in this house and three children later, we have collected more than enough furniture to fill each of the rooms, additional odds and ends to

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put on and in the furniture, and have more stuff in our basement than we know what to do with.

These days, I may (or may not) give the dining room table a swipe with a polishing cloth when things stick to it...

The simple acts of maintaining this larger house have, in some ways, caused me to become a slave to our not-so-humble home.

Not at all like it was “in the beginning...”

I have discovered that the more I own, the more I am responsible for taking care of; and the more I am responsible for, the less freedom I have for enjoying the fun things in life.

I wonder if one’s soul needs a good cleaning every once in awhile, too...and the more humble the soul, the less work it is to keep clean.

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