

Exploding the Supermom Myth

Describe the stereotypical homeschool mom...

Maybe you can relate more to THIS picture of a homeschool mom:

- The house is messy: dishes in the sink, toys, piles of mail, laundry never caught up.
- Meals lacking: less than nutritious, often forget to get things out of the freezer, rely often on frozen/instant foods.
- Kids argue and fight.
- Your kids' special talent consist on beating the final level of Halo 3
- Your kids scored at or below level on their SAT's.
- Your kids don't enjoy school, and would rather ride bikes and play computer games than read good literature.

1. ***Hard lessons learned are always good!*** Remember: *"Many are the plans in the mind of man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."* ([Proverbs 19:21](#)) Despite my failure, God's purposes stood.

2. A less-than-stellar year is not the end of the world or even of their academic career. Believe me. Your kids will be fine – because **you cannot thwart God's plans for them.** *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)) Remember how much God loves you.

3. I have hope! I am NOT going to repeat these mistakes – at least not today. *I have learned and have grown.* “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’” (Lamentation 3:21-24)

Based on that scripture, does God keep a score sheet, tallying up our failures? How does this passage speak to our homeschool situation? Notice that our souls aren’t taught to hope in a clean organized house, self teaching children, or a homeschool filled with enthusiastic learners. God is our portion. Our hope is in HIM.

Yes, there are negative aspects of homeschooling. The wonderful thing about being a Christian homeschool mom, though, is that God takes what we perceive as a negative, and uses it for our good. Let’s look at a brief list of the stereotypical benefits of homeschooling:

- Christ-centered education
- Tailor-made education fit for each unique child/mother
- Provides more opportunity to pursue personal interests
- Economical
- Protects the child from negative influence and harmful peer pressure.
- Strengthens families as they together pursue the plan God has for them
- Has the potential to change the face of our nation politically and spiritually and to halt the downward trend of faith and morality in our nation

- Opens up a world of friendships and relationships within the homeschool community
- Strengthens and sharpens the knowledge base of the mother.

Let's look at some of those negatives.

- Requires a huge time investment
- With your home now the center of all activity, you will experience a lot more mess. Electric and water bills go up.
- Requires educating yourself in many ways, relearning algebra, how to write, etc. But not only specific subject matter, you have learn about homeschool trends and methodology, and so on.
- It stirs up all the selfishness in your heart revealing the impatience, anger, control issues, discipline issues, and so on. Until I started homeschooling, I thought that I was a patient, selfless, person. Homeschooling proved I was sadly self-deceived. Though I was shocked by the truth about myself, thankfully God wasn't!
- It can strain relationships, requiring you to be in 24-hour contact with those around you.
- Less income (if you choose to live on a single income).

Here's what we want to grasp. Negatives are a reality of homeschooling, are they not? So, yes, there are *tremendous* benefits to be gained through homeschooling that far outweigh the negatives, but there are also tremendous costs. You cannot have the benefits without paying the cost.

Look at that negative list again. Look how each of these is actually a positive – a work that God wants to do in our lives. None of them are things to be avoided or escaped. Every one of them needs to be embraced.

1. Time investment: What is the only thing we can take with us into eternity? Other souls! What better thing to invest time in than in the hearts, minds, and souls of our kids. Homeschooling can teach us this perfectly if we are willing to embrace the time investment instead of always looking for ways to get out of the time investment.

2. Mess: after a quarter century of homeschooling, I have yet to find a way to lessen its impact on my home. God has used this negative aspect of homeschooling to deal major blows to my pride, my self-perception, and my contentment (after all, is my joy and contentment based in my home or in my God?). He has taught me true hospitality, time organization, and contentment through the opportunities that homeschooling constantly affords me to practice such things.

3. Self education: Huge investment in self-education! I honestly believe I learned next to nothing in public school as a kid. When I started homeschooling my own kids, I had a hard time remembering even basic math, science, and so on. We aren't supposed to embrace and cling to our ignorance. We're supposed to learn all we can and model for our kids what a self-learning person looks like!

4. Heart issues: How many moms have you heard say, "I'm not patient like you. I could never homeschool. We'd destroy each other!"...As if we're supposed to cling to our sins of impatience and anger! Would you agree that God *wants* and *intends* to cleanse us of such sin? He doesn't do this by making the source of irritation go away. He does it by changing us from the inside out as we pursue these changes.

5. 24 hour contact: when relationships are strained, as the Bible teaches in James 4:1-3, it is because of the selfishness of those involved. Ouch! What a wonderful (but difficult and slow process) to allow God to take a house full of selfish individuals and turn them into self-less individuals...over a period of many, many years. It takes a lifetime of work – but certainly a worthy pursuit with both temporal and eternal implications!

6. Less income: It has required me to learn to be content – slowly over the years as a result of learning to live on one income, within our means – largely because of homeschooling. God has given us contentment – the knowledge that He's has given us much more than we deserve.

It is here, in the heart, that God does His greatest work. As you strive to be a homeschool supermom (a worthy goal) – busily organizing, searching for the perfect curriculum, learning the perfect homeschool method, applying educational techniques – God will relentlessly draw you back to the issues of your heart. It is not your organized home, your curriculum, your methodology or your technique that will make or break your homeschool. It is your heart.

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

So, when is God's grace sufficient?

When is God's grace most gloriously on display?

What kind of person is this promise directed toward?

“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” 1 cor. 1:27-30

Pastor Jared Mellinger said “We’re aware of our weakness and frailty, anxiety and unbelief – but our weakness is the stage on which God performs his greatest work and delights to show his power. This truth is based on the rock of His character, not mine.”

He delights in you. His delight is not contingent on your mythical supermom status or anything inherent in you or me. If you are His child, then He delights in you because of who He is. He is your savior. He paid His all to claim you as his own. This is the foundation of His delight. Now we’re not supermoms, but we are beautiful to our savior.

Psalm 18:18b-19