

# Journey Enews

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## WASHING DISHES By Bobby Duncan

Let's talk dirty dishes. How do you get your dishes clean? Do you have a modern dishwasher? Or do you go old school, washing your dirty dishes in the sink by hand? And here's another question: Who is the primary dish washer your house? Is it a shared duty? Who would you say is the boss of all things dirty dish related?



Let me share my dilemma regarding dishes at our home. Just for context, we don't have a working dishwasher in the house. We've been living in our current home almost almost 22 years. We have an old dishwasher that has never worked. Connie uses it for storing big pots and pans, like an extra cupboard.

For me (a guy) this seems counterintuitive. This would be like a me using the back seat of my car to hang clothes in, like a closet. Long story short, my wife doesn't want one. Connie would tell you they don't get pots and pans clean. And they are too much trouble to load/unload. Thus, we just wash dirty dishes by hand in the sink.

Here is how we work it out. I wash (usually immediately) small items lying in the sink. She takes care of the heavier loads, soaking big, dirty, greasy stuff. She then scrubs them clean much later. This is the fatal flaw in our strategy. Sometimes I have a dirty oatmeal bowl and coffee cup from breakfast, and there's no room in the sink to wash it.

I'm treading on thin ice here. If I raise too much stink about dishes in the sink, I'll be buying my coffee and oatmeal at McDonalds. So my solution is just to move something out onto the counter, wash my bowl and cup, and move on. Not a big deal.

What's your secret, besides using paper plates? For sure, people are going to have different viewpoints about many things. Sometimes it's just a preference. How do we find solutions in our everyday world when people have strong differences?

I think Jesus makes it clear that we're on a mission to make our world a better place. In order to do this there will need to be negotiations, compromises, and potential solutions both parties can agree to. The only way I know this is humanly possible is through Jesus guiding our discussions.

Jesus changes everything. Neither global-sized-crisis sort of things, nor smaller things like dirty dishes tin the sink, are deal breakers with God leading us. We can do this, with His help. We are better together.

Finding common ground in the kitchen and in the world. Determine what God-sized values matter most. People matter most. This is the best place to begin. Connie and I both desire clean dishes. We've come to terms (for now) on how to tidy up the dirty ones.

What I've learned washing dishes: Dawn dish washing soap is gold. That blue Dawn liquid soap is magic in a bottle. No more scrubbing and scrubbing. Grease and dirt are gone.

What I've learned about people and relationship issues: Jesus on the Cross is real magic. Instead of throwing away relationships like paper plates, Jesus fixes them. Cleaning things up. Jesus makes us shine. No one has to be a dirty plate, anymore.