

What Order is NOT

I find that sometimes a potential client or a seminar participant will harbor a preconceived notion that order is harsh, unfriendly, punishing, unrelenting and/or regimented.

What I've learned is that order really opens up possibilities to express and embrace who we are now and what we are now in a way that actually redefines what order is and what it is not.

- **Storage.** Order confronts overflow now to create open space. Unless it's for priceless items, storage is a costly Band-Aid. On site storage tends to just shift the clutter to another area rather than create open space.
- **Tidying.** Another temporary Band-Aid that doesn't confront clutter, creates temporary open space and hides behind a false sense of order.
- **Products.** Don't throw money at the problem to treat the symptoms and not the causes of clutter. Common sense and your sense of order should suffice.
- **Painful.** Ordering your life allows you to discover who you really are now and what your purpose is. It's an adventure -- fun – the Joy of Discovery.
- **Draining.** While it may take time, you'll be able to work in visible, manageable chunks that fuel you with the energy of the open space.
- **Irrelevant.** Our culture and our lives are grounded in order – consistency with things being the same and only changing when they need to. Or when we want them to.
- **Costly.** Order eliminates, lessens or mitigates the financial, psychological and physiological costs of your clutter.
- **Overwhelming.** While the volume of clutter may be huge, setting up a system with timelines, deadlines, priorities, distribution networks and maintenance will generate the order that you seek.
- **Complex.** Order is simple: everything you own or spend time, money, energy and space on is something you need, want, would like to have or don't want.
- **Discipline.** Order is play because it frees you to focus more on the major things in your life. It is not about perfectly keeping a set of self-imposed rules.
- **Oppressive.** Order is your order – what's orderly for you and not for your mother, not for who you were in another life and not exactly the way your partner wishes you to

be. Bilateral order works best where both sides express their own sense of order and share the impact of the other's clutter in their lives.

- **Invasive.** Order is not someone else throwing out your stuff without your permission. You sign off on whether to keep a possession or not, while fully realizing the impact it may have on a partner.
- **Restrictive.** Order actually frees you to be open to new possibilities.

Your comments, reactions and ideas are welcome: jeff@simpleclear.biz.