

Clean Hands – More Money

There's absolutely no doubt that people who wash their hands make more money than people who don't. Regardless of their race or occupation, hand washers are wealthier. Let's follow the logic.

In all societies there lurk disease-causing germs that are passed from person to person on hands. The viruses that cause the common cold, for example, are usually picked up on our hands by sharing somebody else's pen, handling money, touching a doorknob or shaking hands. Most of the bacteria and viruses that cause diarrhea are also carried on our hands. We infect ourselves when we wipe our noses or rub our eyes.

People who wash their hands at appropriate times will remove those bacteria and viruses before they have a chance to infect. People who don't wash their hands get sick and have to miss work more often. If they miss enough work, they lose money and maybe eventually even lose their job. Those non-washers also have to invest a stack of their money to buy medicine to treat their coughs, and colds, and headaches, and diarrhea.

The dividends to hand washing are fantastic. The costs of not washing hands can be bankrupting.