

**DESPERATE TO HONOR GOD**  
**#3 – “What the Bible Says to Susan Mayer”**  
**June 5, 2005**

<sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup>You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup>But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. <sup>18</sup>Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup>Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. *Colossians 3:1-19 TNIV*

Introduction: Our culture and God’s Word offer us intriguing, often competing images of the family. America’s most popular television series is *Desperate Housewives*, a show that explores the relationships of five central female characters, each of whom is a caricature of basic human nature. Most interesting to me are the portraits of family presented in each drama, which reflect our culture and beg to be examined through the lens of a Biblical world view. Today, let’s ask what God’s Word might say to Susan Mayer, the jilted single Mom who is so desperate to find “true love” that she will go to almost any length to find it.

- I. Susan’s Fatal Flaw is Her Fear of Being Alone
  - A. Susan is an extremely extroverted person who hates to be alone.
  - B. Susan has been deeply wounded by her ex-husband, who left her for a much younger woman.
  - C. Susan is desperately seeking “love” and acceptance, though the love she seeks looks more like a crush than deep commitment.
  - D. Susan’s fear of being alone determines her parenting style, and she has made her teenaged daughter her friend (and sometimes parent) rather than her child.
  - E. Susan is caught up in an endless circle of relational manipulative and dishonest games in pursuit of “love” that constantly land her in complicated and troubled situations.
  - F. Susan’s idolatry is a false romanticized love.
- II. God’s Word Tells Us How to Find True Love
  - A. We must set our minds and hearts on the things of God. (Colossians 3:1-4)
  - B. We must “put to death” our “earthly nature” along with all of the lies and games that justify our old ways. (vv.5-9)
  - C. We must put on the “new self” that has is being renewed in by the Holy Spirit of God. (v.10)
  - D. We must “clothe ourselves” with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (v.12)
  - E. For our own good and Christ’s sake, we must forgive those who have hurt us. (v.13)
  - F. Above all, we must clothe ourselves in God’s love. (v.14)
  - G. We must find the peace that comes in being bound to the body of Christ, the church, and discover the peace of thankfulness. (v.15)
  - H. Worship is the cure for human selfishness that masquerades as “love.” (v.16)
  - I. We must be desperate only to honor the name of Jesus Christ! (v.17)
  - J. The complete satisfaction of a love relationship with God through Jesus Christ that prepares us for genuine love relationship with a husband or wife, since marriage is created to honor God. (vv.18-19)

Conclusion: When we become desperate only to honor God, we find true love that allows us to become selfless in our human relationships. True love is not something that we “feel,” but something that we “do” to honor Jesus Christ. Only when we clothe ourselves fully in God’s love are we able to reveal ourselves authentically to others and experience the fulfillment of giving love to others.