

DESPERATE TO HONOR GOD

#4 – “What the Bible Says to Gabrielle Solis” June 12, 2005

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. *Galatians 5:16-26 TNIV*

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. . . ¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 16-9 TNIV

Introduction: Our culture and God’s Word offer us 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 are the portraits of family presented in each drama, which beg to be examined through the lens of a Biblical world view. Today, let’s ask what God’s Word might say to Gabrielle Solis, the discontented model come desperate housewife who will do anything to acquire wealth.

- I. Gabrielle’s Fatal Flaw is Her Rampant Materialism
 - A. Gabrielle is the most notoriously selfish of all the Wisteria Lane women.
 - B. Gabrielle grew up poor, scrapped her way to a high-paying modeling career, and married a wealthy man for his money.
 - C. Gabrielle regularly uses others to achieve her own depraved ends, without regard for the consequences of her actions.
 - D. Gabrielle believes that she should have whatever she wants, and is often dissatisfied with what she already has.
 - E. Gabrielle’s life is devoid of real purpose or meaningful relationships.
 - F. Gabrielle has made an idol of her own desires, particularly her love for money.
- II. God’s Word Warns Against Following Our Natural Desires
 - A. Before we even consider God’s will for our lives, we must understand that our natural desires are contrary to God’s spirit, so gratifying them is a mistake. (Galatians 5:16-17)
 - B. If we are led by the spirit, legalism is unnecessary, since we can trust the leading of the Holy Spirit within us. (v.18)
 - C. To one living by the power of God’s Holy Spirit, the actions based in natural desire are quite obvious. (vv.19-21)
 - D. When sin no longer controls our lives, the Holy Spirit is free to bear fruit in our lives, more difficult to discern. (vv. 22-23)
 - E. The mark of the Christ-follower is that natural passions and desires—and thus the sins that result from them—have been put to death, or “mortified.” (vv.24-26)
 - F. Purposeful living is godliness combined with contentment: **GODLINESS+CONTENTMENT=PURPOSE** (1 Timothy 6:16)
 - G. Materialism is the worship of physical gain combined with discontentment: **GODLESSNESS+DISCONTENTMENT=PURPOSELESSNESS**.
 - H. The natural desire to acquire wealth is a trap of Satan that leads to destruction. (v.9)
 - I. As the fruit of the Spirit is rooted in the Holy Spirit, so evil is rooted in the love of money, which results in grief. (v.10)
 - J. The cure for materialism is placing hope in God alone. (v.11)
 - K. Philanthropic works and giving are the marks of Spirit-led stewardship. (v.12)
 - L. The only treasure that matters is that we lay up for ourselves in heaven. (v.13)

Conclusion: When we become desperate only to honor God, we become contented with what we have and are rescued from the idolatry of materialism. When we walk by the Spirit (“keep in step with the Spirit”), we are freed from the natural desires of the flesh and the control they hold on most people.