

DESPERATE TO HONOR GOD

#5 – “What the Bible Says to the Men of *Desperate Housewives*” June 19, 2005

¹Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. ⁴Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. *Psalm 1:1-6 NIV*

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. Having asked ourselves what God's Word might say to the desperate housewives themselves, let's turn our attention to the men of the show this Father's Day. What might the Bible say to them?

- I. The Men of *Desperate Housewives* are Men of Desperation
 - A. There's Rex Van De Kamp, Bree's husband (now deceased), who blames his perverted sexual philandering on his wife's controlling nature.
 - B. There's Carlos Solis, Gabrielle's husband, who believes money can buy him anything, including love, and is willing to do whatever is necessary to get what he wants.
 - C. There's Tom Scavo, Lynette's husband, who is generally a good guy, but nonetheless puts his career ahead of his responsibilities as a husband and father.
 - D. There's Mike Delfino, the neighborhood “hunk,” who seems to think that dishonesty and sex are good foundations for personal relationship.
 - E. There's Paul Young, the late Mary Alice's husband, a sorry excuse for a father and a sorrier excuse for a human being, as he does whatever it takes to cover dark secrets in his past.
 - F. There's John, the Solis' yard boy, whose sexual desires are much stronger than his moral values.
 - G. And there are others, but you get the picture: the men of *Desperate Housewives* are “men of desperation!”
- II. Men of God vs. Men of Desperation (Psalm 1)
 - A. The very first song in the hymnal of God's people, Psalms, describes the man who is truly blessed, i.e., who knows real joy in life (Hebrew *'esher*):

1. He does not listen to the advice of “wicked” people (Hebrew *Rasha'*, meaning “against God”);
 2. He does not “hang out” with immoral people;
 3. He does not participate in ridicule (Hebrew *l's*).
 4. Take note in this verse of the natural progression of sin in conduct, fellowship, and character thwarted by the man of God: (1) walk, (2) stand, (3) sit;
(1) counsel, (2) way or path, (3) seat; and
(1) wicked, (2) sinners, (3) mockers.
 5. Paul follows this exact same progression in Ephesians:
So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. [“in the counsel of the wicked”] They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. [“stand in the way of sinners”] Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. [“sit in the seat of mockers”] *Ephesians 4:17-19 TNIV*
- B. The man of God finds his happiness in knowing and doing the will of God, starting with the little things. (v.2a)
 - C. The man of God studies and comprehends the Word of God, the Bible, as a habit. (v.2b)
 - D. The man of God has such a close relationship with God that he drinks in God's Spirit all of the time. (v.3a)
 - E. The man of God “produces fruit” (holiness and good works) every single season with unfailing conviction. (v.3b)
 - F. The man of God makes the best of every situation for God's sake. (v.3c)
 - G. The man of desperation (the “natural man”), on the other hand, is not blessed. (v.4a)
 - H. Because they are distant from the source of true life, Creator God, and produce no fruit, men of desperation eventually dry up and blow away. (v.4b)
 - I. Men of desperation will be condemned at the judgment. (v.5a)
 - J. Men of desperation will have no place among men of God when their lives are done. (v.5b)
 - K. God directs the lives of men who are desperate only to honor Him. (v.6a)
 - L. God allows men of desperation to go their own ways (to be “lost”) as they walk toward their own destruction. (v.6b)

Conclusion: The man of God is desperate only to honor God. Men who live for anything else are men of desperation who will spend eternity away from God. Our culture may exalt men of desperation, but God calls out men who are willing to change the world and spend eternity with Him. When we are desperate to honor God, we are desperate for nothing else!