

DESPERATE TO HONOR GOD
#2 – “What the Bible Says to Lynette Scavo”
May 29, 2005

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you... ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. *Philippians 4:4-9, 19-20 TNIV*

Introduction: Our culture and God’s Word offer us intriguing, often competing images of the family. America’s most popular television series at the moment is *Desperate Housewives*, a show that explores the relationships of five central female characters, each of whom is something of 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. Having asked ourselves what the Bible might have to say to Bree Van De Camp, let’s turn our attention to God’s Word for Lynette Scavo, the emotionally needy ex-career woman turned panicked home-mother of four.

- I. Lynette as the Epitome of Emotional Neediness
 - A. Lynette feels unfulfilled by her life as a homemaker, wife, and mother.
 - B. Lynette has sought meaning in her family relationships, which have disappointed her.
 - C. Lynette spends her days in a constant panic, concerned that she will never find true happiness.
 - D. Lynette’s neediness dictates her actions as a wife, mother, and friend, and her family is undisciplined.

Don’t fail to correct your children. They won’t die if you spank them. Physical discipline may well save them from death.
Proverbs 23:13-14 NLT
 - E. Though monogamous in marriage, Lynette is an emotional counterpart to the Biblical woman at the well of John 4.

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink the water I give them will never thirst.

Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” *John 4:13-18*

- F. As with Bree, family and achievement are idolatries for Lynette, who desires “happiness” more than to honor God.

“The Christian life is a holy life; never substitute the word 'happy' for 'holy.' We certainly will have happiness, but as a consequence of holiness. Beware of the idea so prevalent today that a Christian must always be happy and bright, keep smiling. That is preaching merely a gospel of temperament. If you make the determination to be happy the basis of your Christian life, your happiness will go from you; happiness is not a cause but an effect that follows without striving after it.”

Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest

- II. God’s Word Tells Us How Our Needs Should be Met
 - A. Rejoicing is a state of being not dependant on external circumstances. (Philippians 4:4)
 - B. Gentleness is the outer evidence of inner joy, making few demands for the self. (v.5a)
 - C. When the Lord is near, nothing else is truly needed. (v.5b)
 - D. Thanksgiving is the cure for anxiety. (v.6)
 - E. The peace of God meets our emotional needs beyond our control or understanding. (v.7)
 - F. Setting the mind intentionally on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable (excellent and praiseworthy) guards our hearts from emotional neediness. (v.8)
 - G. God is ALWAYS with us, whether we sense His presence or not, and our practice of faith directs our lives. (v.9)
 - H. God meets all of our needs, freeing us to offer ourselves fully in relationships that are emotionally fulfilling because they meet our realistic expectations. (v.19)
 - I. Our only goal in life must be to glorify God! (v.20)

Conclusion: When we become desperate only to honor God, we are freed to release expectations that human relationships and achievements can satisfy our deepest needs. Once we become intimate with our Creator through Jesus Christ, His love in flesh, and become full-filled by God’s Holy Spirit, we are freed to offer ourselves in covenant relationship to our husbands and wives, our children, our friends, our community, and our church.