

### Moms in the Media

Moms are everywhere on TV and in the mass media. Plus, we're a unique group because we can readily laugh at ourselves. Anyone who knows me well knows not to call on Sunday nights, because I'm a major *Desperate Housewives* fanatic! Thinking about shows like this beyond the flat screen can be like looking (or laughing) at ourselves in a very healthy way.

#### *Desperate Housewives*

Who doesn't love the ABC sitcom, Mark Cherry's *Desperate Housewives*? I see this as another example of the mass appeal for challenges we face at home. Its over-the-top portrayal of different caricatures of women attracts 119 million viewers and is the most popular show in its demographic worldwide, according to Wikipedia.

I think of *Desperate Housewives* (<http://abc.go.com/primetime/desperate/>) as *Sex in the City* (<http://www.hbo.com/city/>), but all grown up! I remember meeting one of the writers from *Sex in the City* at a Barnes & Noble book signing. I asked if each character represented something, and I loved her answer. Each one represented a caricature of a different type of woman – the writer/socialite trying to have it all (Carrie); the demure housewife wanna-be at any cost including happiness (Charlotte); the hard core career woman (Miranda); and the over-sexed “alpha male” of the group (Samantha). It was so touching to see them all gravitate away from their caricatures in the last episode and toward a healthier balance of love and life.

Back to *Housewives*, I also see each character as a bit of a caricature. I relate to and appreciate Lynette (Felicity Huffman) the most – she's got 4, now 5 Energizer Bunny kids, had a high-powered advertising career, loves her husband dearly, but crashes on a daily basis in one way or another.

I hope the The Business of Motherhood, like these great TV shows, helps you to laugh, provides valuable on-the-job training, and makes you feel less desperate every day!