

GET OVER YOURSELF

REBELLING AGAINST THE CULTURE OF NARCISSISM

Part 4

MATERIALISM: The Culture of MINE

INTRODUCTION – Marketing & Narcissism

- Edward Bernays & the Engineering of Consent...
- A lesson from Betty Crocker...
- Shopping as therapy and social cohesive...
- From aspirational to affirmational advertising...
- Credit – making materialism possible for everyone...
- The sub-culture of adventure...
- The high cost...

On average, materialistic people are less happy and more depressed. Even people who simply aspire to have more money suffer from poor mental health. They also report more physical health problems, including headaches, and were more likely to drink too much alcohol and use illegal drugs. Striving for financial success, apparently, makes people miserable. (Tim Kasser, *The High Price of Materialism*)

DINE IN – Earning Money to Be More Generous

Hebrews 13:5
Philippians 4:12-13
Ephesians 4:28

TAKEOUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

TAKEOUT #1 – Finding Our Esteem and Identity in God

Just trying to buy less, and to be less needy for affirmation through conspicuous consumption, is a losing battle. We do desire affirmation and a sense of value. The question is – how do we achieve it? Love – the love of God and his people – is the answer. Finding our identity in the one who made us like himself, the one who laid down his life for those he loved, is our starting point for breaking free from our culture of narcissism. What steps are you taking to immerse yourself in the awareness of God's opinion of you?

TAKE OUT #2 – Embracing A Higher Culture

Everyone aligns with a culture. As social beings, this is our natural tendency and is a good thing. We cannot avoid it, nor should we. Our challenge then is to become more immersed in the culture of Christ's Kingdom, the way of Christ's people, than we are in our societal habits. Are you fully engaged in the church (as the people, not the institution)?

CONCLUSION – Cultivating a Kingdom Culture

Matthew 6:10; Luke 17:20-21

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH...

- Steve Maich and Lianne George, *The Ego Boom: Why the World Really Does Revolve Around You*
- Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D. & W. Keith Campbell, Ph.D., *The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement*
- Teaching Series, *Don't Drink The Kool-Aid* (December 2008)

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Jean M. Twenge & W. Keith Campbell argue that because we are social beings we cannot achieve lasting change without the support of a counter-cultural social movement. When brainstorming solutions for our culture's narcissism they write: *There could also be a social movement that, like all social movements, consists of a certain style of dress and choice of products – in this case, less expensive things. The key is to make this choice cool.* How might the church be the reality they are pointing to? What are the strengths and weaknesses of viewing the church this way?

Look to the Book...

2. Read the following passages about the Kingdom of God - from different translations if time permits. **Matthew 6:10, 33; 13:44-46; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:20-21; 17:20-21; 18:16-30; John 3:3; 18:36; James 2:5 A)** What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Among other things, the *kingdom* is the shared experience of God's way ruling our hearts and relationships. It is within us, and among us. How can you better manifest the kingdom in your relationship to material goods, spending habits, and generosity?

So What?...

3. Review the sermon notes. What is one specific change you can make this week to better align your life with the values of Jesus regarding money, purchasing, simplicity, and generosity? Commit to action and pray for each other concerning this.

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching