

GET OVER YOURSELF

REBELLING AGAINST THE CULTURE OF NARCISSISM

Part 4

MATERIALISM: The Culture of MINE

If you could only learn the lesson of absolute self-forgetfulness, it would save you a great deal of trial. Out of self and into Christ are the two essential steps always, and the last cannot be fully taken without the first. For just so far as we dwell in self, we are not dwelling in Christ, and just to that degree, therefore, all goes wrong.

~ Hannah Witall Smith (1832–1911)

Narcissism is the one disease that causes OTHERS to suffer.

~ Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D. & W. Keith Campbell, Ph.D.,
The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement

North Americans are being persuaded that becoming more vain, materialistic, and self-centered is actually a good thing. This can happen even if you're not particularly narcissistic but just get drawn into what everyone else is doing.

~ Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D. & W. Keith Campbell, Ph.D.,
The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement

I want it NOW!

~ Veruca Salt, *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*

The spending of the rich has set a new standard that middle-class families are going into debt to reach.

~ Robert H. Frank, *Luxury Fever*

Even if the economy's down, a sale is all the more reason to buy something nice.

~ Overheard in conversation

It's popular to believe that people buying a lot of stuff keeps the economy going and doesn't hurt anyone. Unfortunately, materialism has real consequences.

~ Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D. & W. Keith Campbell, Ph.D.,
The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement

I work hard, so I reward myself by splurging.

~ 92% agreed in recent survey

In America consumption even has its own holidays, such as "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving, when stores officially begin the Christmas shopping season. So after spending a day thanking the Lord for our family, health, and friends, we take the next t day to get up at 4 A.M. and buy crap we don't need.

~ Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D. & W. Keith Campbell, Ph.D.,
The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement

We must shift America from a needs- to a desires-culture. People must be trained to desire, to want new things, even before the old have been entirely consumed. ... Man's desires must overshadow his needs.

~ Paul Mazer, a Wall Street banker working for Lehman Brothers in the 1930s

May God in his mercy lead us through these times, but above all, may he lead us to himself.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

~ **Jesus**