

The Materialistic Mindset of the Western World

Our primary concern as a society is consumption. Consuming the things we consider to be the most desirable. Things are then elevated with excessive admiration; and also, the people who have them. Special attention is given to those who have, and those who have not are ignored. Hence, the ill consideration for the poor, and the false love for the rich pertaining to capitalistic issues.

Capitalism is a form of socialism. It is an economic/political system controlled by Industry and trade through private ownership. Industries produce material resources and luxuries for the general public, and trades buy resources from industries to sell to the consumer for profit. Through private ownership, which means legal ownership of what an individual has earned the right to possess, they could either make to sell or buy to sell, and whoever works in any of these capacities as an employee (worker) could earn money to support themselves financially. The people who work or own a business, that either produces or sells as a corporation, gives a percentage (tax and insurance) to the government for the operation of the country and to get state pension. E.g. the maintenance of their country, system of education, benefit system, and healthcare system, where people can be hospitalised. Pension is an allowance that you get from the government when you are no longer eligible to work as an elderly. There are many diverse industries, trades and brands of companies. E.g. technology, clothes, food, pharmaceutical, entertainment, sex and etc.

The competition of industries against other industries and trades against other trades, concerning the creativity and sells of products is to do with who can produce the best quality and retail price of a product, and to get as much money as possible from the consumer (consumerism). Henceforth, the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. Consequently, Capitalism overproduces an excess of material luxuries, making exploitation the inevitable. This has caused different classes of people, where people are categorised into different poor and rich socio economic groups. E.g. those who make 5,000 a year, below the minimum wage on average are the poorest, 20,000 is the minimum wage, 30,000 is over the minimum wage, and still a bit below in the economic ladder, 60,000 to 100,000 is the middle class, 1,000,000 is in the rich category and 1,000,000,000 is the richest of the rich. The poor are then treated inferior to the rich because of the quality of life that they have, according to the amount of money they earn (classism).

This has a strong emphasis, that emphasises materialism. It emphasises materialism because the motivation to work and climb the corporate ladder of success is to gain material wealth, and a higher status in society through money. Whenever it is working for someone, owning a company or creating a product for mass consumption. The motivation is to obtain money by work for material wealth. Materialism asserts material possessions and its comforts are more important than spiritual moral values. Your value is then determined by how much money you earn or how much money you have, either in material possessions of monetary value or physical money. Hence, the commodification of humanity. It is practical atheism, that everything that we live for as human beings is for the physical and nothing exists beyond it. If society claims its value is by money, then society is superficial. It is to have a narrow minded perspective to devalue a human being to things. Fundamentally, placing the importance of money before humanity instead of humanity before money, demonstrates the lack of care for human life.

Hence, the sense of meaninglessness. It is meaningless either in excess of reward without earning it, because it is easily accessible due to money or meaningless to limit our value individually to

create purpose by using money.

God was manifested in the flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ, and payed our debt with His own blood. For if we were not only made in the image of God, but bought by the precious blood of Christ, then our value is infinitely high. Thus, we have an intrinsic and innate worth. Therefore, the corruptable things of the earth can never estimate nor be compared to our true value.

We are born for the glory of God. The reason we are birthed into this earth, and our purpose of our existence, is to make manifest the glory of God by the indwelling of His spirit. Only by accepting Jesus Christ into our hearts through His word, we can know our true value.

"43 But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.³ For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. ⁴ Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.⁵ Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;⁶ I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;⁷ Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." **Isaiah 43:1-7**

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others"

Marianne Williamson

God through His word, strictly forbids any one to have a love for the world nor the things in it (minding the things of the world). For whoever does, does not have His love. For all there is, is the lust of the flesh (gluttony and fornication), the lust of the eyes (material possessions), and the pride of life (boasting of what one has or achieved). He also says, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." **1 John 2: 17**

1 John 2:15-17 Reads, "15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Christians are not to allow temptation to ensnare them in gluttony and fornication. Nor lust for material things, and make it be the incentive why they work. And not to become arrogant, boasting about what they have and what they have achieved. Christians are to be the complete opposite, according to the Scriptures. As it describes in **Matthew 6:24-34**.

Jesus Christ said no one can serve two masters, no one can serve God and mammon. The word mammon means anything with monetary value (material possessions) or money. He is not only speaking in general, that no one can have nor serve two masters, but no one can have nor serve God and money as their master simultaneously. For one is loved, and the other hated, or the other is upheld, and the other despised. No one can serve God and money at the same time, because the two require obedience contrary to one another. The servitude of money pertains to the self gratification of the flesh which is carnal, but God requires holiness, and that which is right to His word accordingly. Either God is your master, and you serve Him alone, or money is your master, and you serve it alone, there is no middle ground. He then goes on to say, take no thought for your life, for the material resources that are the necessities of life. Such as food, drink, clothes and shelter. Jesus uses nature to illustrate His point. Providing for the birds of the air, who do not have to do anything of themselves nor are gather together into barns, in a place of accommodation, and are fed by our heavenly Father. And then asked, are you not better than they?

Mammon Greek Definition Source: <http://biblehub.com/greek/3126.htm>

In verse 27 He asked, which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment (clothing)? Jesus uses nature again as He refers to the lilies of the field, they do not labour (work hard) and how they are perfectly still, and Solomon in his glory was not as clothed as them. If God is even willing to clothe the grass of the field, which is here today and burn tomorrow in the oven, then should He not more be willing to clothe you? And those who worry for what they need lack faith.

Christ concludes with take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For this is the very reason why the gentiles (secular or worldly) people seek after these things. They work to provide their necessities for themselves. And the heavenly Father knows we need all of these things. Implying we are to look to Him, and not to ourselves as the sole provider. Therefore, by seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness first before everything else, all our needs would be naturally taken care of as a by product. And we should not think about what we need in advance for tomorrow. Let tomorrow worry about the things of itself, because to be sufficient unto the day is evil. It is evil because it means to ethically cut corners to get what is needed.

The Bible is not saying, we should not work, because it says, "10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." **2 Thessalonians 3:10.** But to work serving God, and not money for our needs.

" 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the

oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." **Matthew 6:24-34**

Capitalism is inadvertently embraced due to living under its system. The perpetuation of materialism through main stream media, influencing mass opinion. Thinking collectively, conversely to faith in God's word relative to the issue of need, and unnecessary luxuries. But it seems normal, and a way of life. Not really having any knowledge and understanding because its been concentrated from childhood. From childhood we are psychologically and socially conditioned by our parents, society and media. To get a good education is to get a good job, which earns a lot of money, so we can have a meaningful life to buy whatever our hearts may desire. We tell our kids the importance of education and work is about money, and to have a special purpose in their life. If we are christians, then this is a gross and immoral sin that we do to our God, ourselves and children. **1 Timothy 6:10** "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

God's will according to His word will be despised before it is compromised as an hinderance for not getting what we want. Choosing to serve money, to commit sin as a means for it. The love of money is therefore immoral, and the root of all evil, not money in itself. To love money is to do whatever it takes to get it. It could then be the incentive to evil. For it is to appease the carnal mind, that is in enmity against God. The Bibles says, to be carnally minded is death. Whosoever stresses the importance of money above God, to selfishly think about their needs has no faith, and to have no faith is a sin against Him.