

CONSUMERISM

PRECEPT

1 KINGS 11:1-4, 11

¹ King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ² They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been...¹¹ So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates."

PROMISE

Negative consumerism can corrupt your heart and draw you away from God. You have what you need, but from your perspective, it's not enough, so you end up buying more because your heart is never satisfied, and your desire for more keeps growing. Reflect for a moment: Do you have any negative consumerism in your hearts?

Consumerism isn't a money issue, but a heart issue. 1 Timothy 6:10 says, "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows." It's obviously not a money issue because others will still buy what they are obsessed with, even if they don't have money, and when you love money, you will desire to have more, to take more, and your whole world will revolve around it. And there's nothing wrong with being rich, if it doesn't distract you from the true faith, meaning it doesn't take you away from God; anyone and anything that replaces Jesus in our hearts becomes our idols, and when we have idols, God takes away what's supposed to be ours.

MAKE GOD YOUR PRIORITY. Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." When you make God your priority, it means that all of your time, talent, and treasures are devoted to Him; rather than our pleasures, we should seek the Kingdom of God first. Seeking His kingdom involves participating in the church as a community, engaging in the ministry, and living under God's authority. Furthermore, living righteously means living right with God, and we do that by being Christlike. When we seek Him first, we won't lose anything; in fact, we will gain a powerful blessing.

TEST GOD WITH YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS. Malachi 3:10 tells, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." One way to manifest that God is our top priority is with our finances. The greatest investment of all time, low risk and a high return; giving isn't losing—it's gaining God's blessing.

GIVE GENEROUSLY. Luke 6:38 notes, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Become a giver and you will gain more.

PRACTICE

1. **Consumerism.** Is there anything that you are consuming lately that has become the God of your life?

2. **A giver.** Do you have a heart of a giver? Are you having a hard time to giving? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Church

- Pray that the church will be an ambassador of God's love and grace to all.

II. Gifts

- Pray that we may be equipped with the gifts of the Spirit to serve God.

III. Justice

- Pray for justice and redemption for those who are oppressed and marginalized.

IV. Nations

- Pray for revival, protection, strength, and spiritual healing of all nations.

V. Growth

- May we seek growth in all aspects of our lives. Ultimately, seek God earnestly.

VI. Hope

- Let us turn to God times of uncertainties. May His peace reign our troubled hearts.

VII. Peace

- Pray for God's peace to fill our hearts, our homes, our communities, and our world.