





# Material?

- **The World Today**
  - *Materialism is The Norm*



Sonja  
Lyubomirsky

**Author,  
Professor of  
Psychology,  
UC-Riverside**

“Why are materialistic tendencies important to identify? A mountain of research has shown that materialism depletes happiness, threatens satisfaction with our relationships, harms the environment, renders us less friendly, likable, and empathetic, and makes us less likely to help others and contribute to our communities.”

“At the individual level, materialistic individuals are less satisfied and grateful for their lives, have less purpose, feel less competent in general, are more antisocial, and have weaker connections with others. Indeed, when it comes to relationships, those with materialistic goals not only rate their own social interactions more negatively, but people in general rate their relationships with materialists as less satisfying as well.”

***The Myth of Happiness***



Dwight Longenecker

Author

“Embarrassed by the supernatural, the Christian teachers and preachers have gradually and gently de-mythologized religion so that it no longer deals with man’s interaction with the supernatural realm, but instead aims to simply save the natural realm. American Christianity is no longer about the salvation of souls, but self help and social justice. The preachers are increasingly silent about the other world, settling for the chance to improve this world.”

***American Atheistic Materialism: A Creed of Despair?***



The  
Imaginative  
Conservative





# Material?

- **The World Today**
  - *Materialism is The Norm*
  - *Fulfillment of Physical Pleasure is The Norm*



# Material?

- **The Wrong Focus**

- *These Things: Temporary, At Best*

**2<sup>ND</sup> COR. 4:18; MATT. 6:19, 20;**

**LUKE 12:15**

- *We Can Take Nothing With Us*

**1<sup>ST</sup> TIM. 6:6, 7; ECCL. 5:13-15**



# Social?

- **The World Today**

- *Social Status/Social Networks*
- *Social Pressure to Conform*



# Social?

- **The Wrong Focus**

- *'Friends' Are Unpredictable*



Ethan Kross, Ph.D.

“On the surface, Facebook provides an invaluable resource for fulfilling the basic human need for social connection. But rather than enhance well-being, we found that Facebook use predicts the opposite result—it undermines it.”

**(Univ. of Michigan Study)**

**ECCL. 7:28; PROV. 18:24; JOB 19:19**





# Social?

- **The Wrong Focus**

- *'Friends' Are Unpredictable*

- *Man Will Often Fail Us*

**NUM. 23:19; PSA. 146:3**



# Political?

- **The World Today**

**ROM. 13:1**

– *Some Seek Power & Control of Others*

**2<sup>ND</sup> KINGS 11:1**

– *Some Seek An Earthly Utopia*



# Political?

- **The Wrong Focus**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PET. 3:10**

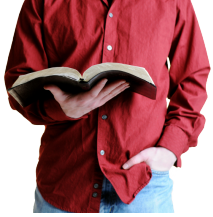
– *God Rules Over All Kingdoms*

**DAN. 2:21; 4:17, 25, 32;**

**ACTS 26:22**

– *Earth Will Never Equal Heaven*

**2<sup>ND</sup> PET. 3:10-12**



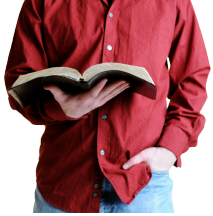
# Spiritual?

- **The World Today**

- *Disinterested & Ignoring This Part*

- *Disbelief & Disdain Toward it*





# Spiritual?

- **The RIGHT Focus!**

- *Eternally Important*

**2<sup>ND</sup> COR. 5:10; 2<sup>ND</sup> THESS. 1:8**

- *Our Earthly Purpose*

**ECCL. 12:13, 14**

OF WHAT DOES  
YOUR LIFE  
CONSIST?



