



from consumption to
COMMUNION



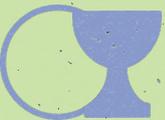
Jeremiah 2:13

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."



**We are drinking
contaminated water.**

**It's refreshing on the lips,
but a bomb in the bowels.**

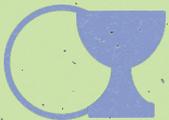


JESUS

Lived to love in a world of greed.

Pursued communion amidst the idolatry consumption.

Love is the substance of faith, the mark of discipleship, and the quality of holiness.



CONSUMPTION TO COMMUNION

1. Clarify the problem & goal
2. The treatment: death
3. Pursuing spiritual life in Jesus' way



Encouraged reading:

Book: The Weight of Glory By CS Lewis

Read: “Membership” and “The Inner Ring”

The Screwtape Letters, Letter 18.

Audio book: “CS Lewis essential audio Library” (has these 2)

Extra: The Pilgrim’s Regress, Ch 8.



1 Peter 1:22-25

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth unto sincere brotherly affection, love one another fervently, from a pure heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, ‘All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.’”



THE NEGATIVE ARGUMENT

The heart of greed is consumed with
contamination and **vanity**.

“...purified by obeying the truth”

“All men are like grass...”



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THE PROGRESSION OF GREED

1. Hyper-consumer
2. Treat subjects as objects
3. Even communion is consumable
4. “Heartless cynics and wild sentimentalists”



SOME CONSUMPTION DATA

Avg Annual Clothing disposal: 81 lbs.

Carries \$6-10k CC debt, saves less than 4%

5lbs of waste per day, 30% plastic.

300,000 _____ (guess)

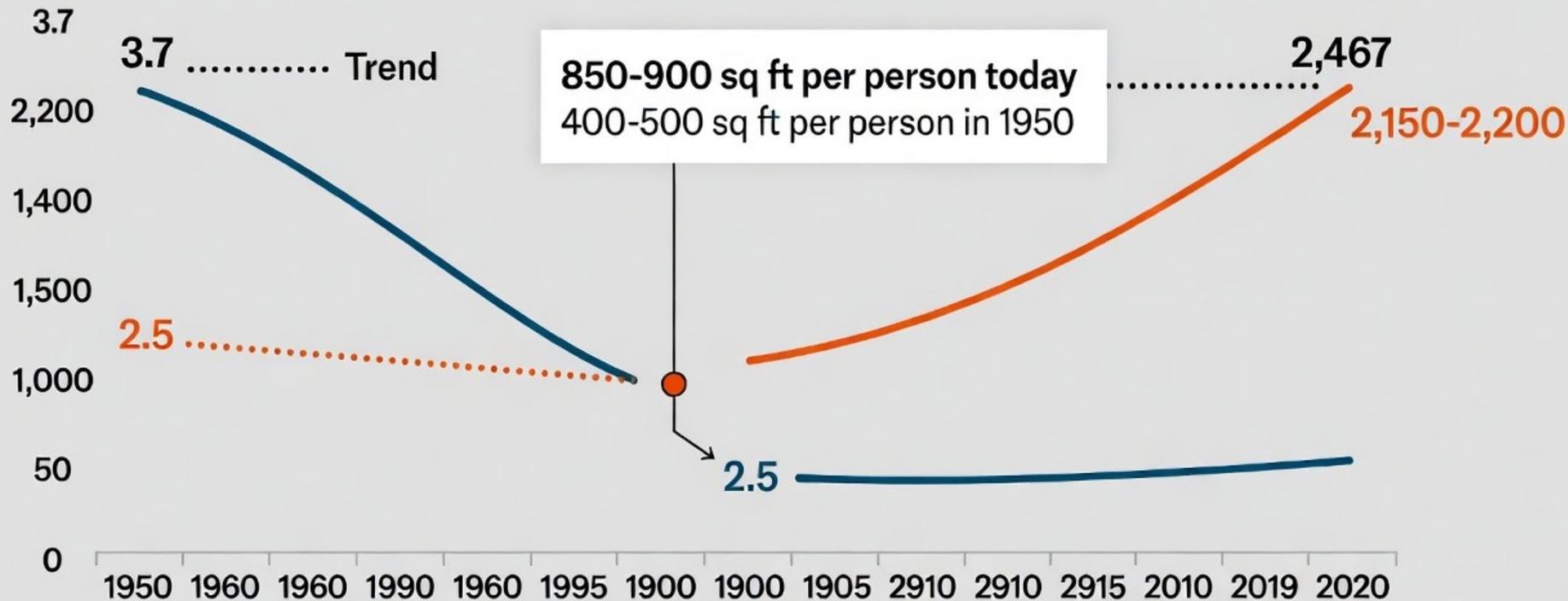
60,000 _____

Household size



Household Size (People)

Square Footage of New Single-Family Home Construction



2016 University of Kansas study (published in Personal Relationships, Omri Gillath & Lucas Keefer)

“People who view objects as disposable are significantly more likely to view friends and romantic partners as replaceable.”



Bauman, Zygmunt. (2000). *Liquid Modernity*.
Cambridge, UK: Polity Press (summary):

In fluid, consumer-driven societies like the U.S., relationships become "liquid love" temporary contracts for personal satisfaction, not lifelong commitments. People are treated like consumer goods: useful until a better option appears.

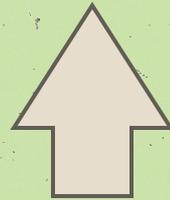


TRAVEL INSTEAD OF CHILDREN

Travel, vacations, recreation...

1984: \$8,452

2024: \$32,723

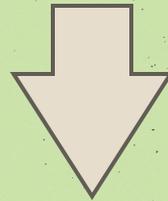


387%

Marriage rates:

1985: 10.1 per 1000

2023: 6.1 per 1000



40%

Children: down 49% since 1950



CONSUMERISTIC LOVE

Under 35: (data: Pew 2022-23)

63% of men are single, and...

34% of women are single.

Um.....only 2 reasons...both are consumeristic.



DATING APPS:

Tinder: 46% of women, 10% of men

Belgium: 61.9% women, 4.5% men

80-20 split:

78% of women for top 20% of men

Bottom 22% of women for 80% of men

OK cupid: 80% of men “below average”

Bumble Match: male 3%, female 45%

Study: “everyone seeks 25% more “desirable” than themselves.”



**“Selection bias is worst
in ‘swipe-based apps.’”**



There is no “blood-brain” barrier
between stuff and people

A consumption mentality leads to a
“disposable society”

“Everything is replaceable,
temporary, and not worth repairing”



Oscar Wilde *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892)

Cecil Graham: "What is a cynic?"

Lord Darlington: "A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

Cecil Graham (replying wittily): "And a sentimentalist, my dear Darlington, is a man who sees an absurd value in everything, and doesn't know the market price of any single thing."



DIAGNOSIS:

We diagnose diseases by identifying clusters of symptoms.

What does God say are the symptoms of greed, objectification and craving consumption?



SYMPTOMS OF “CISTERISM”

1 Cor. 13 language reversed:

Boastful

Proud

Self-seeking

Easily angered

Keeps record of wrongs

Delights in evils

Hates the truth

Selectively protects

Sometimes trusts

Conveniently hopes

Calls it quits

Solidarity collapses

Secular language:

Poor emotional intelligence

Self-involved

Uses people, unreliable

Co-dependency

Climber

Flatterer, sycophant

Fanboy, simp,

Infatuation (foolishness)

Impulsive gratification

Anxious

Existential crisis

FOMO



THE POSITIVE ARGUMENT

The purification of faith will grow familial affection and make fervent love possible.

“Fervency” being the active virtue opposite greediness.



LOST TRUTH:

Graciously winning a heart of familial affection must precede a life of love.

Or (1 Cor. 13:1-2) you ARE nothing and GAIN nothing—even if you're a martyr.



1 Peter 1:22-25

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth **unto** *sincere brotherly affection*, love one another fervently, from a pure heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, ‘All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.’”



2 Peter 1:5-8

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, **godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.** For if you possess **these qualities in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

You cannot escape this order.

You cannot be godly and then sacrificially love without an expansion of affection that is transforming.



Jesus has affection for you.

He didn't just die for your sins because he is a good "person". He did it because he cares about you. And since he did it while you were his "enemy" in sin- you know it wasn't because of what you could "do for him"- it was because he cares about the "you" that cannot be reduced to an object or a performance. And because of this joyful affection and sorrowful pain, he has sought communion with you.



Isaiah 55:1-3

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David."