



Part 2: Possession Lie

There is a powerful lie at work in our culture, a lie that measures status and worth by one's possessions and whispers to us, "You are what you have." Let's stop buying that lie. Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions. Life is found in being the beloved children of God.

Bottom Line: God's love serves as the foundation of my worth.

Discussion Questions:

1. If your house caught on fire and your family and pets were safe, what three possessions would you try and save from the fire?
2. **Read Luke 4:1-2, 5-8.** This temptation of Jesus is to value status, authority, and wealth above God. What do you think are the most tempting symbols of status, authority, and wealth in our culture?
3. We are exposed to a massive amount of marketing in our culture, which essentially tells us that we will only be satisfied, happy, or safe if we have the product being sold. Share a time when you were so sure that a certain product or service would satisfy you, but you were disappointed instead.
4. In *The Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster writes, "Because we lack a divine Center our need for security has led us into an insane attachment to things. We really must understand that the lust for affluence in contemporary society is psychotic. It is psychotic because it has completely lost touch with reality. We crave things we neither need nor enjoy. 'We buy things we do not want to impress people we do not like.' We are made to feel ashamed to wear clothes or drive cars until they are worn out. The mass media have convinced us that to be out of step with fashion is to be out of step with reality. It is time we awaken to the fact that conformity to a sick society is to be sick."
 - a. What do you think about Foster's statement? In what ways do you agree or disagree with him?
5. "Were we draw life from is what our heart worships." In what ways do you agree or disagree with this statement?
6. **Read 1 John 4:9-10.** From where should we draw life? According to this passage, what defines our worth?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you? How can the group pray for or encourage you this week?

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.