

Many shifts in society....

- Life expectancy....
- Travel is global....
- Communication easier....





- *I'm one of the least materialistic people that exist, because material possessions don't mean much to me. They're beautiful, I enjoy them, they can enhance your life to a certain degree, but they're ultimately not important.*
Tom Ford (fashion designer)



- *Stuff is not passive. Stuff wants your time, attention, allegiance. But you know it as well as I do, life is more important than the things we accumulate.* – Dave Bruno (author)

Jesus has some profound words for this generation, for those searching for purpose:

"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

Matthew 16:26

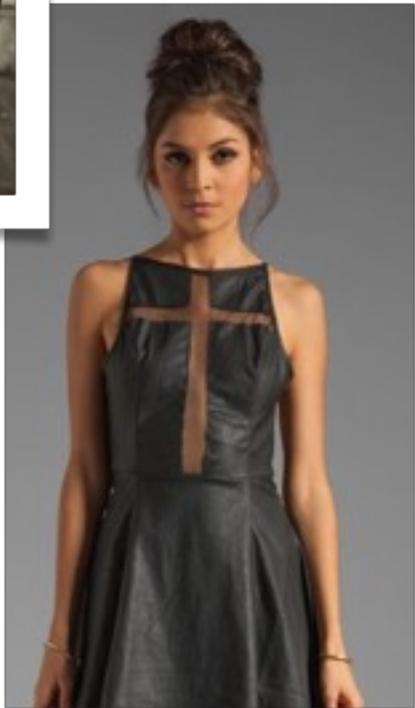
Luke 12:15 Good News Translation

And he went on to say to them all, “Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be.”

**NEVER CONFUSE WHAT YOU LIVE ON
WITH WHAT LIVE FOR**

Matthew 16:24-25

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”



The cross as a fashion statement

Contrast to the first century reality.

Physically - the brutality, violence and physical humiliation

Socially - we are superior and you are vastly inferior

Politically- we are in charge here and you and your nation count for nothing

Religious - our gods of Rome and Caesar are superior to any local gods

THE PROBLEM

***"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
(Rom 3:23)***

Falling short: this word occurs around 250 times, the most common way to express the concept of sin.

The central idea of "miss the mark" is like we might see in a archery competition.

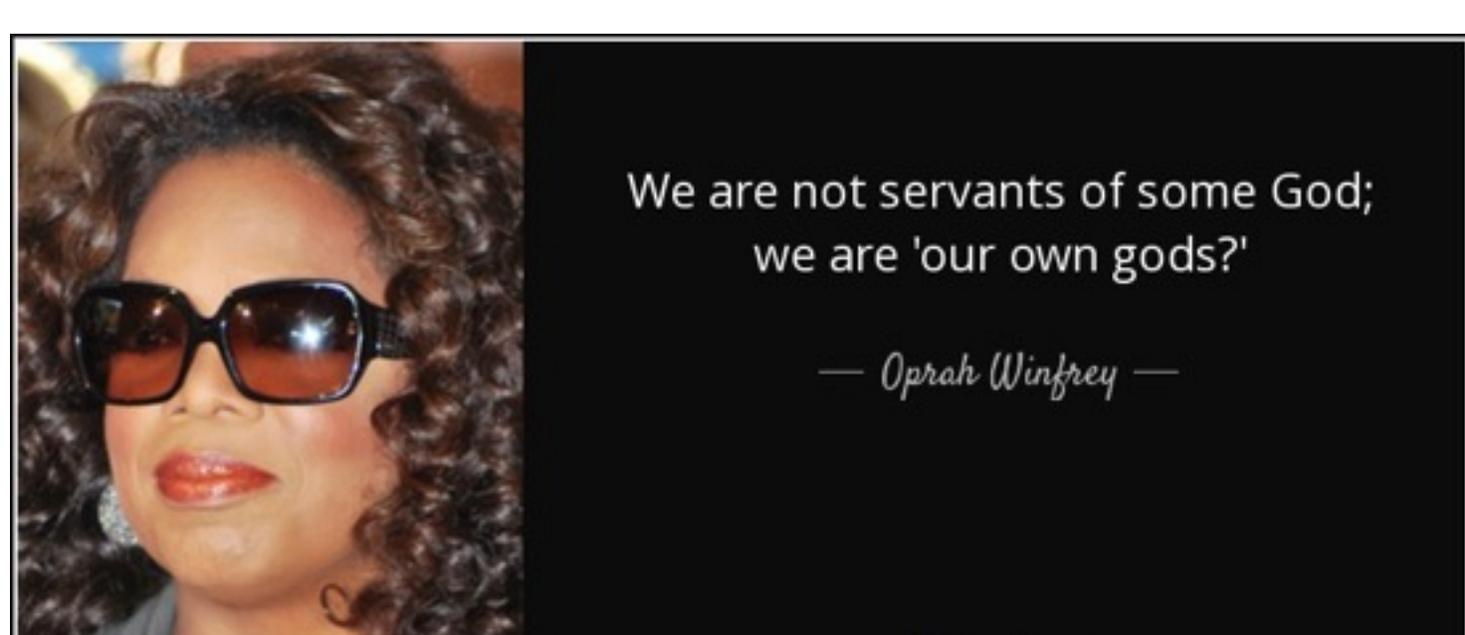


THAT MISSING THE MARK means sin pollutes us to the very core



And then he (Jesus) added, “It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”

(Mark 7:20-23)



SIN....

NOT SIMPLY a long list of things you must and mustn't do

Sin is a failure of worship, we become our own gods.

BIBLE REVEALS THAT HUMANS ARE CREATED IN ORDER TO LIVE AS WORSHIPING STEWARDS OF CREATION.

GOD HAS A SOLUTION -

God identifies that we have a problem but also provides a solution. God didn't leave us to ourselves:

1 Peter 2:24

“He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right.”

2 Corinthians 5:19

“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.”

That means we can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

"He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned: that there's one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us—Jesus...."

1 Timothy 2:4-5 MSG



CONCLUSION:

What must you do in response?

- A – There is something to **ADMIT**
- B - There is something to **BELIEVE**
- C - There is something to **CONSIDER**
- D - There is something to **DECIDE**

Prayer: Sorry, Thank you, Please

Dear God,

I'm sorry for living life my own way, for not worshipping you as you deserve.

Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sin and bring me back you. I now receive your forgiveness and gift of life through Jesus.

***Please come into my life to be in control, to be Lord.
In Jesus name. Amen.***

