

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 8 Stewardship

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Reflections and Resources (3)

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Reflections and Resources

1) Stewardship of the whole person

An interim pastor can model and promote a stewardship of the whole person. Being overweight and out of shape, depressed and irritable diminishes vitality, while a refreshed body, mind, and spirit enhances vitality.

Four Young Israelites and the Babylonian Court

⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore, he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

⁹ Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

¹⁰ And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

¹¹ Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah,

¹² Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

¹³ Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

¹⁴ So he consented to them in this matter and proved them ten days.

¹⁵ And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

¹⁶ Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

¹⁷ As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

¹⁸ Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁹ And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah: therefore, stood they before the king.

²⁰ And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

²¹ And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

Daniel 1:8-21 KJV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+1%3A8-21&version=KJV>

[Images for Four Young Israelites and the Babylonian Court](#)

[Images for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah](#)

Resources for Daniel's Diet

Daniels Diet - Christian diet based on biblical teaching

Daniel's Diet, a 10-day Detox and Weight Loss program by Philip Bridgeman

<http://www.danielsdiet.com/>

54 best The Daniel Fast images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/michelleringor/the-daniel-fast/>

[Images for Daniels Fast pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/kastilwell/recipes-daniel-fast/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/michelleringor/the-daniel-fast/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/feauxcajun/daniel-fast/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/celerey37/daniel-fast/>

How to Do a Daniel Fast: 12 Steps (with Pictures) - wikiHow

<https://www.wikihow.com/Do-a-Daniel-Fast>

[Images for Do a Daniel Fast](#)

<https://danielfast.wordpress.com/tag/21-day-daniel-fast/>

<https://danielfast.wordpress.com/category/spiritual-fasting/>

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/283317-the-daniel-diet/>

The Book of Daniel: Is It Really About Diet? | TIME.com

The Bible is not a diet book. Study it as closely as you want, and you'll never find anything remotely approaching "10 Tips to Drop 10 Pounds." And yet that same Bible has helped 15,000 members of Rick Warren's Saddleback megachurch drop a collective 260,000 lbs. The program the Saddleback members are following is known as The Daniel Plan, and in TIME's health special this week ([available to subscribers here](#)), Jeffrey Kluger and I take a deeper look at just why it's met with such success.

<http://healthland.time.com/2012/05/31/the-book-of-daniel-is-it-really-about-diet/>

[Images for The Book of Daniel: Is It Really About Diet? | TIME.com](#)

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/daniel-diet-straight-bible/story?id=21029387>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/11/the-diet-from-god/281816/>

Resources for Clergy Health

Clergy Health & Pastor Health - Faith and Health Connection

Here you'll find resources to help you sustain yourself... in spirit, mind and body. The more effective you manage your stress and the healthier you are the better you'll be able to serve the people in your congregations. This page will be a work in progress for a while as I develop and make available resources to help you stay healthy.

<http://www.faithandhealthconnection.org/pastors/>

[Images for Clergy Health & Pastor Health - Faith and Health Connection](#)

Fit to Be a Pastor: A Call to Physical, Mental and Spiritual Fitness by G. Lloyd Rediger

Lloyd Rediger is an ordained clergyman in the Presbyterian Church (USA) whose expertise lies in clergy counseling, leadership, and health. He has written several books that are intended to help pastors who are in difficult situations and to help them be more effective servant-leaders in their parish. *Fit to be a Pastor* is a book that could easily fit into either category; Rediger points out that the level of un-fitness in many pastors creates a dangerous situation for them and fitness tends to help a person be a more effective pastor.

Although, as Rediger makes clear, unfit, unhealthy lifestyles are not unique to pastors, he does recognize that pastors are in a unique position to lead others toward holistic health. Further, since Rediger already enjoys a following among clergy, he writes this book specifically to them. Rediger defines fitness as having three dimensions: physical health (nutrition, exercise, and relaxation), mental health (knowledge, wisdom, interpersonal relationships, and reflection), and spiritual health (connecting with God through active and meditative means, alone and in groups).

In this important and urgent message to pastors, G. Lloyd Rediger emphasizes the necessity of integrating fitness of body, mind, and spirit in order to attain fulfillment of personhood and calling. Not immune from the debilitating unfitness that is endemic in America, pastors must be fit if they are to facilitate God's purposes in the world. Rediger stresses that clergy need to reinvent a healthy pastoral role based on this holistic approach.

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/search?index=books&linkCode=qs&keywords=9780664258443>

http://www.amazon.com/Fit-Be-Pastor-Physical-Spiritual/dp/0585299129/ref=pd_sxp_f_r/187-4995171-9443519

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2629698-fit-to-be-a-pastor>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664258441>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Fit_to_be_a_Pastor.html?id=V1GRATzkQ5IC

<http://www.pres-outlook.com/reviews3/book-reviews3/1345-fit-to-be-a-pastor-a-call-to-physical-mental-and-spiritual-fitness.html>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/g-lloyd-rediger>

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/authors/rediger-g.-lloyd>

<https://www.amazon.com/G.-Lloyd-Rediger/e/B0011OFCSW>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/257002.G_Lloyd_Rediger

[Images for G. Lloyd Rediger, author](#)

[Images for Fit to Be a Pastor: A Call to Physical, Mental and Spiritual Fitness by G. Lloyd Rediger](#)

How healthy are our pastors? Report reveals church leaders have above average stress, weight gain and depression - The Lutheran Magazine

Beyond improving the health and wellness of ELCA leaders and congregations, Halaas says another goal of the study is to create a healthier culture throughout the entire church. "The dream of the Board of Pensions and the Division for Ministry is to create a healthier community, with the church at the center of that community," she says. "We want to set a good example for our entire country, which health wise is not doing so well."

To achieve that dream, ELCA seminaries, synods and congregations need to make a coordinated effort, Halaas says. Steps are already taking place. Resources are being developed at the churchwide level. Seminaries are offering health and wholeness courses. And synods are planning congregational health and wellness initiatives.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=4464&key=19927294

[Images for How healthy are our pastors? Report reveals church leaders have above average stress, weight gain and depression - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

Stewardship of the body: Caring for our bodies as God's temple has value | The Lutheran

An adage above my desk says: "Stewardship is everything I do after I say I believe." This includes taking good care of our time, talents, resources and finances — and our bodies.

Our gracious Creator endowed each of us with an amazingly complicated yet wonderfully working collection of limbs, organs and brain cells for which we are to exercise responsible care. There is intrinsic value in taking good care of our bodies — Paul called the body "the temple of the living God" (2 Corinthians 6:16).

In practical terms this means we have a scripturally based, God-given responsibility to take the best care possible of our bodies. If we don't, we mistreat one of God's greatest and most personal gifts to us.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=2102

[Images for Stewardship of the body: Caring for our bodies as God's temple has value | The Lutheran](#)

Stewardship of the Body - Kindred Grace

Stewardship of the feminine body, to some, might dictate an immediate discussion on modesty. But as someone who has focused on birth and fitness since childhood, I see three root words in that weighty term that will get you excited to see your body from a whole new angle: Ward, Ship and Steward.

<http://kindredgrace.com/stewardship-of-the-body/>
[Images for Stewardship of the Body - Kindred Grace](#)

The Wholeness Wheel - Portico Benefit Services

The Wholeness Wheel is increasingly used by ELCA individuals and organizations as an important learning and discernment tool. It illustrates that wellness is multi-dimensional — made up of spiritual, vocational, intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and financial dimensions of well-being. Spiritual well-being is intertwined with and influences our well-being in all other dimensions.

THE WHOLENESS WHEEL



Portico Benefit Services' wholeness wheel contains an adaptation of Portico Benefit Services' "A Church-wide Campaign for Healthier Lives" (2013).

<https://www.porticobenefits.org/CallToLiveWell/FaithBasedWellBeing/TheWholenessWheel>
[Images for Wholeness Wheel - Portico Benefit Services](#)

Whole – But Not Perfect

Walking Together: A Congregational Resource Event

Whole – But Not Perfect

Dick Bruesehoff, outreach coordinator, Portico Benefits Services

Nearly every day we hear something about the latest, sure-fire way of staying healthy – often with connections to spirituality. There are so many messages, and they change so frequently! It can all be kind of confusing. We'll explore a vision of health and well-being – of wholeness – that's rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition. It's a vision that we all can actually live with. And it's a vision that needs a community – a congregation – if it's going to be real. Come and learn how your congregation can be a center of health and wholeness.



http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/program_book_3.16.13.pdf Page 4

[Images for congregation can be a center of health and wholeness](#)

<https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/CallToLiveWell/HowPorticoCanHelp/WellnessActivities/BeStill>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/richard-bruesehoff-5852887>

What Does the Bible Say About Stewardship Of Personal Health?

https://www.openbible.info/topics/stewardship_of_personal_health

[Images for Bible and Stewardship Of Personal Health](#)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-your-body/>

<https://www.faihandhealthconnection.org/5-reasons-why-god-wants-us-healthy-well-and-fit/>

[Images for reasons-why-god-wants-us-healthy-well-and-fit ...](#)

https://adventistbiblicalresearch.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Stewardship%20Body_0.pdf

<https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/study-guide/e/4990/t/god-s-free-health-plan>

<https://mintools.com/stewardship-resources.htm> A Church-wide Campaign for Healthier Lives:

[Images for Church-wide Campaign for Healthier Lives](#)

<http://www.mairangichurch.org.nz/?sid=528> Stewardship 2 "Wise Stewards of Our Body" (Romans 12:1-8 & 1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

[Images for Wise Stewards of Our Body](#)

2) Stewardship of creation

Craig Nesson of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa spoke on *Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community* at the 2013 Mid-Winter Theological Event for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA. He gave Twenty Virtues of the Shalom Church. Five of those pertaining to the stewardship of creation are listed below:

- Basic posture of praise and thanksgiving
- Loving the earth as our neighbor
- Readiness to learn a new paradigm for human participation in the world
- Stewardship as care for creation
- Holding one another accountable for the care of creation

He also gave Twenty Core Practices of the Shalom Church. Five of those pertaining to the stewardship of creation are listed below:

Wonder

Simplicity
Attending to the local place
Living sustainably
Advocacy for the creation

Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community (Prisms) by Craig Nesson

Craig Nesson's important new work retrieves biblical metaphors of the body of Christ and, following Dietrich Bonhoeffer, sees church today as "Christ existing as community." The theological-probing Nesson then adds contextual analysis and describes the four chief imperatives that mark Christ's presence in the world today: peacemaking, justice-making, care for creation, and engagement with the other. He then unfolds the real-life implications of this paradigm of Christian community for local church structure, strategies for partnering, public witness, and interreligious engagement.

Chapter One **For the Mending of Creation: The Place of Social Ministry in the Mission of God**

Chapter Six The Body of Christ is Catholic: **The Practice of Care for Creation**

<http://www.amazon.com/Shalom-Church-Christ-Ministering-Community/dp/0800663276>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8655764-shalom-church>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451405405>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgOXgf4W1Jc> Author Craig L. Nesson talks about his new book, Shalom Church - YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftr6Zoteexw> Author Craig L. Nesson talks about what it means to be a church - YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAeBCP3Q2zc> Author Craig L. Nesson gives tips for using his book, "Shalom Church"

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/people/dr-craig-l-nessan/>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/craig-l-nessan>

<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/7889/>

<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/craig-l-nessan>

<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-L.-Nesson/e/B001JSAG9C>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/723724.Craig_L_Nesson

[Images for Craig Nesson, author](#)

[Images for Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community \(Prisms\) by Craig Nesson](#)

[Images for For the Mending of Creation: The Place of Social Ministry in the Mission of God](#)

[Images for The Body of Christ is Catholic: The Practice of Care for Creation](#)

Resources

Stewardship of Creation - Faith+Lead - Luther Seminary

Look for the ways in which we work-till-serve and guard as God's stewards. Please enjoy creation's gifts as our northern readers witness the return of life to fields and forest.

<http://faithlead.luthersem.edu/stewardship-of-creation/>

[Images for Stewardship of Creation - Faith+Lead - Luther Seminary](#)

The Stewardship of Creation - Lutherans Restoring Creation

The Stewardship of Creation. A Theological Reflection. by David Rhoads. Steward is a biblical term that refers to a manager who is responsible for the goods and property of another. A steward is not therefore an owner, but one who has a responsibility to an owner to treat property with care and respect.

www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/the-stewardship-of-creation

[Images for Stewardship of Creation - Lutherans Restoring Creation](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Stewardship Of Gods Creation?

https://www.openbible.info/topics/stewardship_of_gods_creation

[Images for bible and stewardship of God's creation](#)

https://www.openbible.info/topics/taking_care_of_the_earth

[Images for bible/taking_care_of_the_earth images](#)

https://www.openbible.info/topics/caring_for_the_environment

[Images for bible/caring_for_the_environment](#)

<https://edenkeeper.org/2014/12/06/creation-stewardship-bible-images/>

<https://www.webofcreation.org/bible-verses>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Stewardship-Of-Gods-Creation/>

[Images for Bible-Stewardship-Of-Gods-Creation](#)

<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/the-stewardship-of-creation-a-theological-reflection/>

[Images for stewardship-of-creation-a-theological-reflection](#)

<https://www.webofcreation.org/archive-of-resources/505-stewardship-of-creation>

<https://www.doesgodexist.org/MayJun08/BiblicalCalltoEnvironmentalStewardship.html>

[Images for Biblical Call to Environmental Stewardship](#)

3) Environmental stewardship

My booklet *The Earth is Our Home* as a part of Rural Ministry Resources on this website focuses on environmental stewardship. I suggest particularly Part III Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Earthkeeping: Chapter 8 Living Word Encounters; Chapter 10 Preaching and Worship for the Care of the Earth. Also, Part IV Keepers of the Earth: Chapter 14 Conference Task Force Addresses Environmental Issues; Chapter 15 Congregations Carry Out Care of the Earth Concerns.

Resources

[PDF] A Creation-Friendly Building Guide for Churches – The National Council of Churches

A practical resource guide to building with energy efficient technologies and sustainable building techniques. This is a great companion guide to the Bottom Line Ministries That Matter report.

<http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/BuildingFirmFoundation.pdf>

[Images for Creation-Friendly Building Guide for Churches](#)

At the Lord's Table: Everyday Thanksgiving

Eat mindfully – mindful of the farmers and rural communities, the rich soil and clean water, and God's plentiful provision – without which our tables would be empty. Doing so instills thanksgiving and calls us to right relationship with all of creation.

Explore and celebrate the blessing of every bite with this guide for study.

<http://www.slideshare.net/Z8Y/v3x46>

[Images for right relationship with all of creation](#)

[PDF] Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A four-session small group study to encourage, empower, and equip Lutherans in their calling to care for creation.

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Awakening To Gods Call To Earthkeeping.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Awakening%20To%20Gods%20Call%20To%20Earthkeeping.pdf)

[Images for Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

"Being green isn't easy" says Kermit the Frog

How is your green stewardship? Join the discussion on ways how you and your congregation can grow your green stewardship. We are called by God to "keep the earth" (Genesis 2:15). You will study the Word that directs us to **care for the earth and all its creation**. Review resources that are available for a personal and congregational responsibility to God's earth and creation. Take home resources and activities to engage your congregation from kids to adults for growing your green stewardship.

[PDF] ALL INFO 2016.xlsx - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/all_info_2016.pdf

info@nwswi.org

[Images for care for the earth and all its creation](#)

[PDF] Bottom Line Ministries that Matter - Interfaith Power & Light

Congregational Stewardship with Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Technologies

http://interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/BottomLine_5P.pdf

[Images for Congregational Stewardship with Energy Efficiency](#)

Caring for Creation - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - ELCA

We are called by God to "keep the earth" (Genesis 2:15). Below are resources and educational materials to help you and your congregation grow in your own faith journey to appreciate fully and cherish creation and find different ways to engage in earth-keeping activities.

"Humans, in service to God, have special roles on behalf of the whole of creation. Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth." (ELCA, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice," 1993).

<http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Caring-for-Creation>

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation>

[Images for Caring for Creation - ELCA](#)

Cherishing God's Creation (DVD) - Presbyterian Church (USA)

This DVD explores eco-justice issues in five parts: Earth, Air, Water, Habitat and People. It calls to a new lifestyle that is based on stewardship and compassion.

<http://store.pcusa.org/2436010002>

[Images for Cherishing God's Creation](#)

Christian Ecology - Christians for Environmental Stewardship

Christians for Environmental Stewardship is dedicated to reaching the Evangelical Conservative Christian churches with a scriptural message of environmental stewardship.

<http://www.christianecology.org/Stewardship.html>

[Images for Christian Ecology - Christians for Environmental Stewardship](#)

Christian Environmental Stewardship - YouTube

Should Christians Care?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dB6hQqAZkOk>

[Images for Christian Environmental Stewardship - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJVPCECgGok> Christian Perspectives on Environmental Stewardship - YouTube

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/authors/gary-bryner>

https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3AGary%20Bryner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN1k8GtZDQU> Christianity and Stewardship - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97O8fZkuGjM> Creation & Stewardship: Christianity - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nXwVGtqg5U Why Christians should be good Stewards of the Planet - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXf358bpR90> A Christian Ecology - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6U6rjCc1Ga0> Christianity and Ecology - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vEY08f8IM8> How Should Christians Care for the Environment? - YouTube

City Green [DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan]

Right in the middle of Marcy's city block is a littered vacant lot. Then one day she has a wonderful idea that not only improves the useless lot but her entire neighborhood as well.

<http://www.amazon.com/City-Green-DyAnne-DiSalvo-Ryan/dp/068812786X>
http://books.google.com/books/about/City_Green.html?id=HKCVJJraOEUC
<http://www.harpercollins.com/browseinside/index.aspx?isbn13=9780688127862>
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/city-green>
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-688-12786-2>
<http://dyannedisalvo.com/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DyAnne_DiSalvo
<https://www.amazon.com/DyAnne-DiSalvo/e/B001IR3IW6>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/196799.DyAnne_DiSalvo_Ryan
[Images for DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, author](#)
[Images for City Green \[DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan\]](#)

Earth Community, Earth Ethics (Ecology & Justice) [Larry L. Rasmussen]

This acclaimed book provides a comprehensive approach to issues of social cohesion and ecological concern, synthesizing insights from religion, ethics, and environmental science in a single vision for creating a sustainable community of the Earth. With environmental ethics as its primary focus, Larry Rasmussen brings together insights from diverse sources on the state of the environment -- and what can be done, now, to halt the degradation of life. Larry Rasmussen first scans our global situation and the threats to life posed by the modern world. Next, he turns to the realms of religious faith and human symbolism, gleaning from them the resources for a "conversion to earth" needed for global survival. Finally, Rasmussen offers a constructive ethic, a program of "Earth Action" that can shape a global movement toward sustainable community.



<http://www.amazon.com/Earth-Community-Ethics-Ecology-Justice/dp/1570751862>
<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/rx-for-the-earth/book-review-earth-community-earth-ethics-by-larry-rasmussen>
<http://emergingearthcommunity.org/earth-community>
<https://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2009/rasmussen.php>
<http://fortresspress.com/author/larry-l-rasmussen>
<http://www.earthcareonline.org/pages/theolpersp.html>
<http://ecoethics.net/bib/1997/enca-010.htm>
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/earth-honoring-faith-9780199917006?cc=us&lang=en&>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vcp56lvCwf4> Larry L. Rasmussen at Nobel Conference 45 – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw613qO1-ig> Larry L. Rasmussen Q&A at Nobel Conference 45 - YouTube
<http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/Home/congregations/public-ministry/nancy-wright-article>
<http://fortresspress.com/author/larry-l-rasmussen>
<https://www.amazon.com/Larry-L.-Rasmussen/e/B000AQTNW0>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/125131.Larry_L_Rasmussen
[Images for Larry L. Rasmussen, author earth ethics](#)
[Images for Earth Community, Earth Ethics \(Ecology & Justice\) \[Larry L. Rasmussen\]](#)
[Images for Ecology & Justice books](#)

Earth Day 2020 | Earth Day - Earth Day Network

[The first Earth Day in 1970](#) mobilized millions of Americans for the protection of the planet. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — 10% of the U.S. population at the time — took to the streets, college campuses and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet. The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern [environmental](#) movement and is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event.

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/>
[Images for Earth Day 2020 | Earth Day - Earth Day Network](#)

Earth Ministry | Stewardship of the earth

For over 20 years, Earth Ministry has been the statewide leader in engaging the religious community in environmental stewardship and advocacy. Our Greening Congregations Program was the first in the country to help houses of worship implement sustainable practices, and our faithful advocacy program is on the cutting edge of empowering clergy and lay

leaders to speak out on public policy issues. Through education, outreach, organizing, and training, Earth Ministry builds a powerful moral constituency of people of faith taking action for the health of our communities and the environment.

<http://earthministry.org>

[Images for Earth Ministry | Stewardship of the earth](#)

Earthkeeping Ministries: A New Vision for Congregations

Designed as a congregational toolbox, this manual provides very basic theological reflections about earthkeeping, presents in detail organizational ideas for starting or enhancing a ministry, and offers practical suggestions, instructions, and resources for implementing earthkeeping projects.

<http://www.slideshare.net/Z8Y/k3m35>

[Images for Earthkeeping Ministries: A New Vision for Congregations](#)

Environment - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Caring for God's creation is an ever-evolving topic in this world with each new natural or human-made disaster. As stewards of this world, we are called to examine our behaviors in the way we treat creation. While we need to take from the land for food and sustainability, we need to be careful that we maintain the difficult balance between being good stewards and exploiting all of the splendors the earth gives each of us.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Social-Issues/Environment>

[Images for Environment - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation>

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Environmental_Topics_Issue_Papaer.pdf

<https://acton.org/public-policy/environmental-stewardship/theology-e/evangelical-lutheran-church-statement-environment>

<http://www.greenfaith.org/religious-teachings/christian-statements-on-the-environment/lutheran-statements-on-the-environment>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/04/earth-day-series-elca-addressing-effects-climate-change/>

http://www.nrpe.org/uploads/2/4/4/7/24473122/elca_wh_announcement.pdf

<http://www.webofcreation.org/Manuals/scheidt/resources.html>

[Images for stewards of this world](#)

Environment Pledge - Synod Resource Center

AN INVITATION TO JOIN TOGETHER

We are inviting every member household of Madison Christian Community to deepen their individual commitment to stewardship of the environment. We are empowered when we realize that as a whole community in Christ, our individual daily decisions about energy use, and our communication with others outside the MCC, can collectively have a positive impact on the health of Creation. We like the idea of being intentional and accountable to one another and to God, much as we are when we make stewardship pledges of money, time and talents. You are invited to join with other members to make a three-fold commitment.

http://synodresourcecenter.org/sc/issues/environment/0001/environmental_pledge.html

[Images for Environment Pledge - Synod Resource Center](#)

Environmental Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/environmental>

https://www.brainyquote.com/lists/topics/top_10_environmental_quotes

[Images for Environmental stewardship quotes](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/environment>

<http://www.wiseoldsayings.com/environment-quotes/>

<https://www.tumblr.com/tagged/environmental-quotes>

<https://www.ecomena.org/inspirational-quotes-environment/>

<https://www.yourtango.com/2018313744/best-environmental-quotes-save-the-earth>

<https://www.birthdaywishes.expert/insightful-famous-quotes-about-the-environment/>

<http://www.quoteagarden.com/environment.html>

<https://humantra.co/top-10-environmental-quotes/>

<https://www.greenchildmagazine.com/inspiring-environmental-quotes/>

<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/inspiring-environmental-quotes.php>

https://www.earthday.org/quotes_from_environmental_leaders/

<https://earth911.com/inspire/earth-day-23-quotes/> Earth Day: 23 of the Greatest Environmental Quotes

<https://parade.com/280532/viannnguyen/17-inspiring-quotes-for-earth-day-the-environment-is-where-we-all-meet/>

[Images for inspiring-quotes-for-earth-day-the-environment](#)

Environmental Stewardship Committee - the Metropolitan New York Synod

The Environmental Stewardship Committee works to educate churches on issues of environmental integrity and promotes specific actions that each church community and member can take to act with greater environmental responsibility. We do this because we believe that creation is yet another one of God's gifts to us, and it is our responsibility to care for it.

We encourage all synod churches to increase their commitments to recycle; use recycled materials; reduce the amount of waste produced; conduct energy audits; adopt cleaner and renewable energy sources; work to protect our precious shared resources of land, air, and water.

We are committed to the goal set by the 2010 Synod Assembly of reducing energy-related greenhouse gas emissions 5% a year, with the ultimate goal of reducing emissions 25-40% by 2020.

What steps—small or large—is your congregation taking to care for creation? Let us know at mnysgreen@gmail.com.

http://www.mnys.org/ministries2/environmental_stewardship_committee/

[Images for Environmental Stewardship Committee - the Metropolitan New York Synod](#)

Environmental Stewardship in the Judeo-Christian Tradition: Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant Wisdom on the Environment by Action Institute (Author), Jay W. Richards (Introduction), Robert A. Sirico (Father) (Foreword)

A fair and honest debate about religious responses to environmental issues should always distinguish theological principles from prudential judgments. The Cornwall Declaration and the accompanying essays in this volume were written to do just that. They were not written to provide theological rationale for current environmentalist fashion. Rather, they seek to articulate the broad Judeo-Christian theological principles concerning the environment, and to distinguish those principles from contrary ideas popular in the environmental movement.

<http://www.amazon.com/Environmental-Stewardship-Judeo-Christian-Tradition-Environment/dp/188059515X>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/environmental-stewardship-in-the-judeo-christian-tradition-acton-institute/1111869849#productInfoTabs>

<http://www.acton.org/public-policy/environmental-stewardship/theology-e/environmental-stewardship-judeo-christian-traditi>

<http://business.cua.edu/faculty/richards.cfm>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/2929824.Jay_W_Richards

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_W._Richards

<https://acton.org/about/staff/rev-robert-sirico>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Sirico

<https://www.facebook.com/robertsirico/>

<http://www.robertsirico.com/>

<https://acton.org/>

<https://twitter.com/ActonInstitute>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acton_Institute

[Images for Environmental Stewardship in the Judeo-Christian Tradition: Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant Wisdom on the Environment by Action Institute \(Author\), Jay W. Richards \(Introduction\), Robert A. Sirico \(Father\) \(Foreword\)](#)

Environmental stewardship - Wikipedia

Environmental stewardship refers to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_stewardship

[Images for environmental stewardship](#)

God's garden planet: Caring for creation goes beyond stewardship - The Lutheran Magazine

If this vision of faith is true, as I believe it is, how are Christians to live on this garden planet today as God originally intended? The Scriptures give us clues about how God originally intended humans to be in nature and to live with nature. In Christ, we are called, as renewed creatures, to be in nature and to live with nature in three related, but distinct, ways. It starts with stewardship, in a new-old understanding, and moves us into the new responsibilities of partnership and "honorship."

Resources

- *Earth & Word: Classic Sermons on Saving the Planet*, ed. by David Rhoads ([Continuum](#), 2007). Collection includes the work of environmentalists, theologians, preachers and activists who explore the relationship between thinking religiously and thinking ecologically.

- *Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping* by [Kim Winchell](#) ([ELCA](#), 2006). Study resource is intended for use by faith-based small groups.

- [ELCA: Advocacy—Caring for Creation](#).

- [Lutheran World Relief: Advocacy—Clean Water](#).

- [Web of Creation—Ecology Resources: Transforming Faith and Society](#). Compilation of on-line resources maintained by [Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago](#)

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7099

[Images for God's garden planet: Caring for creation goes beyond stewardship - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

Greening Spaces for Worship and Ministry: Congregations, Their Buildings, and Creation Care [Mark A. Torgerson]

Greening Spaces for Worship and Ministry is a comprehensive guide. The book provides a rationale, strategies, and resources for fulfilling **environmental stewardship** through the land and buildings of Christian and Jewish congregations. New construction, renovation, and historic preservation projects are addressed. Site development, material choices, energy generation and consumption, water use, interior air quality, green cleaning programs, and beauty are discussed. Ten congregations from across the United States and Canada are featured as examples of excellence in creation care in and through their built environments.

<http://www.amazon.com/Greening-Spaces-Worship-Ministry-Congregations/dp/1566994233>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995399>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Greening_Spaces_for_Worship_and_Ministry.html?id=K_tYAwwAAQBAJ

[Greening Spaces for Worship and Ministry - Pinterest](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/GreeningSpaces>

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/publications/greening-spaces-for-worship-and-ministry-congregations-their-buildings-and-creation-care/>

<http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/theology-of-worship/books>

http://www.judsonu.edu/Undergraduate/Biblical_and_Theological_Studies/Faculty/Mark_Torgerson/

<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-A.-Torgerson/e/B008237QYU>

[Images for Mark A. Torgerson, author greening spaces](#)

[Images for Greening Spaces for Worship and Ministry: Congregations, Their Buildings, and Creation Care \[Mark A. Torgerson\]](#)

Imaging God: Dominion as Stewardship (Library of Christian Stewardship) [Douglas J. Hall]

The deterioration of our natural environment under the impact of a rampant technological society is one of the major crises of our time. For many analysts, a primary cause of this crisis is the influence on Western culture of the Judeo-Christian concept of the human being as having dominion over the rest of creation. In this book, Douglas John Hall does not attempt to exonerate historical Christianity from that charge. But, he argues, confession alone is not enough. The crisis of nature forces us to rethink our whole understanding of the relation between humanity and nature - an understanding that is based on the concept that human beings are created in the image of God ('imago Dei').

http://books.google.com/books/about/Imaging_God.html?id=ENIHAAAACAAJ

<http://www.amazon.com/Imaging-God-Dominion-Stewardship-Christian/dp/1592445802>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/190949-imaging-god-dominion-as-stewardship-library-of-christian-stewardship>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_John_Hall

<https://www.amazon.com/Douglas-John-Hall/e/B001HOB7AK>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115008.Douglas_John_Hall

[Images for Douglas J. Hall, author](#)

[Images for Imaging God: Dominion as Stewardship \(Library of Christian Stewardship\) \[Douglas J. Hall\]](#)

Lutherans Restoring Creation

A resource for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – *Caring for God's Good Creation*

<http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>

[Images for Lutherans Restoring Creation](#)

<http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/about-us/our-mission>

Members are going green at Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake

Going green at Bethany Lutheran means more than putting on a Packer jersey. It means being **environmentally conscious** and striving to have an impact in preserving the resources that God has provided.

The newly-formed Bethany Green Team is researching ways to help the church and its members to make strides to protect and preserve the environment. Recycling efforts have begun with receptacles placed in strategic locations in the church to collect hundreds of Styrofoam cups.

Members are urged to drop off holiday lights that no longer work at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Cameron by January 31. Christmas cards, too, are reused for craft projects at nursing homes. Office paper is shredded and loaded for farm bedding. Even plastic disposable communion cups may be recycled.

Through efforts of the Green Team church members are learning that every choice we make has an environmental impact, and so it is imperative that all of us learn how to make the right choices.

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of January 25, 2015

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1119904646999.html>

[Images for Members are going green at Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake](#)

<http://bethanyricelake.org/event/873160-2016-09-19-green-team/>

[PDF] Out of the Wilderness: Building Christian Faith and Keeping God's Creation - Earth Ministry

The wilderness is deeply woven into Christianity and other faith traditions. They were central to the spiritual journeys of Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad. This new resource will help us in our modern-day efforts to reflect peacefully and reconnect with the Creator through study, worship, and congregational action.

<http://earthministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Out-of-the-Wilderness.pdf>

[Images for Out of the Wilderness: Building Christian Faith and Keeping God's Creation - Earth Ministry](#)

[PDF] Rooted in God's Word and Lands: A Celebration of the Earth that Nourishes Us

Like a tree putting down roots in the soil, we are deeply imbedded in the land – physically, culturally, and spiritually. Sharing the land with our neighbors and with creatures gives us a sense of place and belonging within our communities and the whole of creation. Experiencing the solitude and beauty of wilderness reminds us of God's power and grace in our lives.

<http://uccfiles.com/pdf/RootedinGodsWordandLand.pdf>

[Images for Rooted in God's Word and Lands: A Celebration of the Earth that Nourishes Us](#)

<http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/LandsBulletinInsert.pdf>

<http://www.slideshare.net/Z8Y/s3t18>

[Images for Earth that Nourishes Us](#)

Special Places: Taking Care of God's World

Special Places is a two-part video resource to help children, youth and teachers expand their understanding of stewardship to include concern for all of God's creation. Part I (11 minutes) is a visual story which provides a backdrop for three native American storytellers. Part II (14 minutes) features a workshop in which Christian educators handle the issues raised in Part I.

<http://marconf.ca/resources/special-places-taking-care-of-gods-world/>
[Images for Taking Care of God's World](#)

St. Patrick's Day: It's greener than you think | The Lutheran

St. Patrick's Day can evoke images of leprechauns, green beer and pubs filled with music late into the night. In Chicago, even the river is dyed green as part of the celebration. But there is something more powerful and transformational beneath this day. St. Patrick is credited with helping start Celtic Christianity, which has "green" roots in its awareness of creation, the environment and how God is involved in the natural world.

The Lutheran | March 2014 Issue

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=11906
[Images for St. Patrick's Day: It's greener than you think | The Lutheran](#)

Stewards of the Earth's Resources: A Christian Response to Ecology

This paper argues that Christian beliefs do not necessarily contribute to the environmental crisis by reducing the earth to a possession to be exploited and populated by people. It examines the nature of the earth as an independent creation of God that is entrusted to human beings as trustees of a creation that possesses a deep worth reflecting God's glory and creation impulse. The paper discusses the 2,000-year-old tradition of stewardship as an ethic to develop and defend environmental stewardship.

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1180>
[Images for Stewards of the Earth's Resources: A Christian Response to Ecology](#)
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2033435

The Environment – Word and World – Spring, 1991 – Luther Seminary

<http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/>
<https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx>
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1455 Creation in Crisis. James L. Boyce
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1388 Abortion and Creation: A Response for Communities of Faith. Ned Wisniewski
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=972 Christ Alone, the Hidden God, and Lutheran Exclusivism. Peter A. Pettit
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=989 Creation or Nature? A Manner of Speaking. Robert Quam
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=477 Ecology, Feminism, and Theology. Mary Ann Hinsdale
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1009 Environmental Concern and Economic Justice. Peri Rasolondraibe
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=318 Rural America in Crisis: An Unprecedented Call for a Christian Environmental Ethic. C. Dean Freudenberger
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=209 The Church's Role in Environmental Action. Calvin B. DeWitt
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=601 The Environmental Challenge in Rural America. Anne Kanten
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=703 The Responsibility of Royalty: Genesis 1-11 and the Care of the Earth. James Limburg
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1366 The Weeping Mask: Ecological Crisis and the View of Nature. Vitor Westhelle
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=827 Reconciliation with Nature. Jurgen Moltmann
Word and World - The Environment (Spring 1991)
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=42
[Images for The Environment – Word and World – Spring, 1991 – Luther Seminary](#)

The Green Bible [Zondervan]

Is God green? Did Jesus have anything to say about the environment? With over 1,000 references to the earth in the Bible, the message is clear. All of God's creation—nature, animals, and humanity—are inextricably linked to one another. As creation cares for us, we too are called to care for creation and engage in the work of healing and sustaining it. Read the scriptures anew with *The Green Bible* as your guide and discover how caring for the earth is not only a calling, but also a lifestyle.

Special features:

Green-letter edition—over 1,000 verses highlighted

Green topical index and *The Green Bible* Trail Guide for further study

Inspirational essays by scholars and leaders such as N. T. Wright, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Brian McLaren

Environmentally friendly—recycled paper and soy-based ink

<http://www.amazon.com/Green-Bible-The-Harper-Bibles/dp/B004IK9DUQ>
[Images for Green Bible \[Zondervan\]](#)
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/books.php?id=18489>
<http://faculty.cu-portland.edu/herbhoefler/ReviewofGreenBible.html>
<http://www.faith-theology.com/2009/04/green-bible.html>

The Green Psalter: Resources for an Ecological Spirituality [Arthur Walker-Jones]

Concern for the earth and biblical faith have had an uneasy relationship: ecological theologians have often cited biblical themes of dominion or “mastery” over the land as contributing to our present environmental crisis. Walker-Jones explores Psalm genres and important metaphors in the Psalms for earth, the environment, and living things, while tracing their influence in contemporary culture, for example in recent films. He shows that the Psalms, like the earth that is our home — can be dangerous but also provide wonderful resources for life.

1. “Like a Tree Planted”: Wisdom and Torah Psalms
2. “God, My Rock”: Individual Laments
3. Making Peace with Leviathan: Community Laments
4. Creation and Its Importance
5. Hymns and Liberation
6. Let Earth Rejoice: Eco-justice in Hymns

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Green-Psalter-Ecological-Spirituality/dp/0800663020>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7264463-the-green-psalter>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/3901/The-Green-Psalter-Resources-for-an-Ecological-Spirituality?c=257625>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/green-psalter-resources-ecological-spirituality>

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/theology/arthur-walker-jones.html>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/arthur-walker-jones>

<https://www.amazon.com/Arthur-Walker-Jones/e/B001JXR4IS>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/729028.Arthur_Walker_Jones

[Images for Arthur Walker-Jones, author green psalter](#)

[Images for The Green Psalter: Resources for an Ecological Spirituality \[Arthur Walker-Jones\]](#)

<https://www.logos.com/product/6275/fortress-press-hebrew-bible-collection>

[Images for Fortress Press Hebrew Bible Collection](#)

‘The one thing all religions have in common is responsibility for caring for the earth.’ – The Lutheran

Sara Spoonheim, deputy director, Faith in Place, Chicago, and member, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Chicago
It was May, the world was in bloom and so was Sara Spoonheim. She had every reason to be. As deputy director of Chicago-based [Faith in Place](#), an interfaith environmental organization, she had just come off an exhilarating week. And she sat in the spring sunshine to talk about it.

For Spoonheim, the sun is more than a welcome source of warmth after a long Chicago winter. It’s a vital energy source. She helped her congregation, [Resurrection Lutheran](#), be the first in Chicago to go solar and a suburban mosque become the first in the nation to have solar panels.

Spoonheim had spent most of the previous week in Washington, D.C., at the annual conference of [Interfaith Power & Light](#), an organization with which [Faith in Place](#) is affiliated. [IPL](#), which is active in 29 states, uses education and advocacy to mobilize a religious response to global warming.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=8337

[Images for ‘The one thing all religions have in common is responsibility for caring for the earth.’ – The Lutheran](#)

The Stewardship of Life in the Kingdom of Death (Library of Christian stewardship) [Douglas John Hall]

This study forcefully sets forth the church’s crucial mission of stewardship in our world today. Hall outlines a biblical view of what it means to be partners in God’s covenant of life in the context of a darkening kingdom of death.

<http://www.amazon.com/Stewardship-Kingdom-Library-Christian-stewardship/dp/0802803547>

http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/resource_detail.aspx?resource_id=409

<https://www.amazon.com/Douglas-John-Hall/e/B001HOB7AK>

<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800699864Intro.pdf>

[Images for Douglas J. Hall, author](#)

[Images for The Stewardship of Life in the Kingdom of Death \(Library of Christian stewardship\) \[Douglas John Hall\]](#)

[Images for Library of Christian Stewardship books](#)

Till and Keep by Center for Stewardship Leaders – Luther Seminary

Our relationship to the creation is a fundamental key to a healthy and faithful life. We have asked four writers to help us explore our role as stewards of God’s gift of creation.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4386>

[Images for stewards of God’s gift of creation](#)

25 best Environmental Stewardship Possibilities images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/dpearlylearning/environmental-stewardship-possibilities/>

[Images for environmental stewardship pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/cityofls/environmental-stewardship/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/Biltmore/stewards-of-the-land/>

[Images for stewards-of-the-land on pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/francamanderson/stewardship/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/lawton4h/environmental-stewardship-recycling-composting-wat/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/iliketoseestuff/inspiration-stewardship/>

<https://in.pinterest.com/ecostewards/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/discoverforest/conservation-stewardship/>
[Images for pinterest/discoverforest/conservation-stewardship](#)

Urban gardening by Center for Stewardship Leaders – Luther Seminary

Urban congregations and urban gardens are a great stewardship connection. Find out more in this video.
http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/resource_detail.aspx?resource_id=1559
<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4212> Urban gardening
<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4438> Urban gardeners
[Images for urban gardening](#)

Water Stewards: A Toolkit for Congregational Care of Local Watersheds

The purpose of this *Water Stewards* guide is to provide Christian communities with a simple manual that suggests ways to contribute to watershed protection. In this guide, we provide tips and resources to enable your congregation to discuss what wise choices and positive actions you can make to help restore your watershed for this generation and those to come.
<http://www.slideshare.net/Z8Y/a3b01>
http://www.nccecojustice.org/network/downloads/NCCwatermanual_genericr2.pdf
[Images for Water Stewards](#)
[Images for Congregational Care of Local Watersheds](#)

We Care for Creation

Lutherans believe all of creation is a gift from God to be cherished and preserved. We are called to live in harmony with God's world and, where possible, work for the betterment of all God's creatures. We do this by working together on social and ecological issues locally and globally.
[View ELCA Advocacy](#)
[View Lutherans Restoring Creation](#)
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | What We Believe
<http://nswi.org/about-us/what-we-believe>
info@nswi.org
[Images for We Care for Creation](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Stewardship Of Gods Creation?

https://www.openbible.info/topics/stewardship_of_gods_creation
https://www.openbible.info/topics/taking_care_of_the_earth
https://www.openbible.info/topics/caring_for_the_environment
[Images for Bible and Stewardship Of Gods Creation](#)
<https://edenkeeper.org/2014/12/06/creation-stewardship-bible-images/>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stewardship_\(theology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stewardship_(theology)) Biblical references
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-stewardship/>

4) Leaving a carbon footprint legacy

When I consider the consumptive patterns of North Americans, Western Europeans, and Scandinavians relative to other countries,

Use It and Lose It: The Outsize Effect of U.S. Consumption on the Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I read that a single child born in the U.S. has a greater effect on the environment than a dozen children born in a developing country? Can you explain why?—Josh C., via e-mail
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/american-consumption-habits/>
[Images for Outsize Effect of U.S. Consumption on the Environment](#)

I am relieved that I did not sire any offspring to add to that level of consumption.

Do not count me among those who are trying to tell others to do the same, though. I am simply saying that I am personally relieved.

Resources

Best 25+ Carbon footprint ideas only on Pinterest
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/carbon-footprint/>
[Images for carbon footprint pinterest](#)
<https://www.pinterest.com/turninggreenorg/footprint/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/what-is-carbon-footprint/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/dogwoodalliance/diy-reduce-your-carbon-footprint/>
[Images for pinterest/reduce-your-carbon-footprint](#)
[Images for pinterest-reduce-your-carbon-footprint](#)
<https://www.pinterest.com/djohnson/carbon-footprint/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/carbonneutral/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
[Images for pinterest/carbonneutral/carbon-footprint-calculator](#)
<https://www.pinterest.com/climatekickstart/greenhouse-effect-and-carbon-footprints/>

[Images for pinterest-greenhouse-effect-and-carbon-footprints](#)

Carbon Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/carbon>

[Images for carbon footprint quotes](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/carbon-footprint>

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/carbon>

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/carbon.html

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/carbon-footprint.html

https://todayinsci.com/QuotationsCategories/C_Cat/CarbonFootprint-Quotations.htm

[Images for CarbonFootprint-Quotations](#)

Fast facts – consumption statistics | Green Living Tips

12 percent of the world's population lives in North America and Western Europe and accounts for 60 percent of private consumption spending, but a third of humanity who live in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa account for only 3.2 percent. WorldWatch Institute

<http://www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/consumption-statistics.html>

[Images for Fast facts – consumption statistics | Green Living Tips](#)

Free Carbon Footprint Calculator | The Nature Conservancy

Our carbon footprint calculator estimates how many tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases your choices create each year.

<http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/>

[Images for Carbon Footprint Calculator | The Nature Conservancy](#)

The State of Consumption Today | Worldwatch Institute

[The Rise and Spread of the Consumer Class](#)

[The Consumers of the Future](#)

[Global Inequities](#)

[Curbing Our Wealthy Appetites](#)

[Problems in Paradise](#)

[Social Fallout of Consumption](#)

[Consumption and Well-being](#)

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810>

[Images for State of Consumption Today](#)

What is a Carbon Footprint - YouTube

Learn what a carbon footprint is and how that relates to climate change. Be Conscious. Make an Impact. Be Rewarded.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCK_9TxR_q0

[Images for Carbon Footprint - YouTube](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q7_aV8eLUE simpleshow explains the Carbon Footprint - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCK_9TxR_q0 What is a Carbon Footprint - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzPVw7ddhRU> Reducing Our Carbon Footprint - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHisfHDuuYo> Measuring our carbon footprint - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkE0ySkQKHM> 10 Easy Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBkRZFp75ZY> What is a Carbon Footprint? - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui6SEmzZ9e8> What is a Carbon Footprint? - YouTube

Though I sometimes whimsically think it would be nice to have a yellow Labrador Retriever as a companion, I recall hearing from some members how they spend more on veterinarian bills for their pets than the annual capita per income of some of the people I visited on my travel seminar to West Africa with Lutheran World Relief and so I allow the thought to pass. I suppose I could always read *Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog* an autobiographical book by journalist John Grogan, published in 2005, about the 13 years he and his family spent with their yellow Labrador Retriever, Marley, or watch the movie based on the book. I listened to excerpts of the book on [Chapter A Day | Wisconsin Public Radio](#) archived at <https://www.wpr.org/search/site/Marley%2520%2526%2520Me>

5) True identity

I consider my true identity to be that of a Christian and not that of a consumer.

Resources for Christian

[Christian | Define Christian at Dictionary.com](#)

Christian definition. A follower or disciple of Jesus; someone who believes Jesus is the Christ or Messiah. The New Testament mentions that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians within a few years after his death.

www.dictionary.com/browse/christian

[Images for follower or disciple of Jesus](#)

[Images for believes Jesus is the Christ or Messiah](#)

Christian - Wikipedia

A Christian is a person who follows or adheres to Christianity, an Abrahamic, monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. "Christian" derives from the Koine Greek word *Christós* (Χριστός), a translation of the Biblical Hebrew term *mashiach* (Biblical Hebrew: מָשִׁיחַ).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian>

[Images for christian](#)

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity>

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Christianity

Resources for consumer

Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire [William T. Cavanaugh]

Should Christians be for or against the free market? For or against globalization? How are we to live in a world of scarcity? William Cavanaugh uses Christian resources to incisively address basic economic matters - the free market, consumer culture, globalization, and scarcity - arguing that we should not just accept these as givens but should instead change the terms of the debate.

Among other things, Cavanaugh discusses how God, in the Eucharist, forms us to consume and be consumed rightly. Examining pathologies of desire in contemporary "free market" economies, *Being Consumed* puts forth a positive and inspiring vision of how the body of Christ can engage in economic alternatives. At every turn, Cavanaugh illustrates his theological analysis with concrete examples of Christian economic practices.



<http://www.amazon.com/Being-Consumed-Economics-Christian-Desire/dp/0802845614>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2266921.Being_Consumed

<https://www.eerdmans.com/Products/4561/being-consumed.aspx>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802845614>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Being_Consumed.html?id=Tclbnafo0MC

http://www.2shared.com/document/qmi6ZVH8/Being_Consumed_-_Economics_and.html

<http://cjd.org/2009/04/01/william-t-cavanaugh-being-consumed-economics-and-christian-desire-eerdmans-2008-115pp-12-00-pbk-isbn-9780802845610/>

<https://theotherjournal.com/2009/03/03/consumption-junction-whats-your-function-a-review-of-william-cavanaughs-being-consumed/>

<http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/being-consumed-economics-and-christian-desire/>

<http://marketplace.regent-college.edu/ideas-media/business-economy/book-review-of-being-consumed--economics-and-christian-desire>

<http://biologos.org/author/william-t-cavanaugh>

<https://www.amazon.com/William-T.-Cavanaugh/e/B001IQWFT4>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/146578.William_T_Cavanaugh

[Images for William T. Cavanaugh, author](#)

[Images for Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire \[William T. Cavanaugh\]](#)

Consumerism Quotes - BrainyQuote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/consumerism>

[Images for consumerism quotes](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/consumerism>

www.quoteagarden.com/consumerism.html

www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/consumerism.html

www.quoteland.com/topic/Consumerism-Quotes/443/

www.betterworld.net/quotes/consumerism-quotes.htm

Consumerism - Wikipedia

Consumerism is a social and economic order and ideology that encourages the acquisition of goods and services in ever-increasing amounts.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumerism>

[Images for consumerism](#)

Consuming Faith: Integrating Who We Are with What We Buy [Tom Beaudoin Fordham University author of Consuming Faith]

Americans search for identity through a paradoxical pair of passions: spirituality and consumerism. On the one hand, we participate in religion or practice spirituality and on the other hand we are keen consumers. But, as Tom Beaudoin's *Consuming Faith* makes clear, if we truly seek to put our spirituality into practice, we must integrate who we are with what we buy. How are we linked to the rest of the world through our purchases? What does faith have to do with what we buy? With a

new updated preface by the author, this paperback edition invites us to think about how our purchases affect who we are as individuals and as members of a global community.

The author calls for a responsible attitude to buying and consuming based on the worth and dignity of all human beings.

<http://www.amazon.com/Consuming-Faith-Integrating-Who-What/dp/1580512089>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/156679.Consuming_Faith

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/consuming-faith-tom-beaudoin/1102885866>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1580512089>

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/excerpts.php?id=14361>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Consuming_Faith.html?id=j3sLTayPVVgC

http://www.academia.edu/2532471/Review_of_Tom_Beaudoin_Consuming_Faith_Integrating_Who_We_Are_with_What_We_Buy

http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-58051-138-4_Nonfiction_Book_Review

<http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1488&context=ce> Book Review

<https://www.calvin.edu/publications/recession/reflections/16.pdf>

<http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1488&context=ce>

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/excerpts/view/14361>

https://www.fordham.edu/download/downloads/id/3274/dr_beaudoin_cv.pdf

<http://blog.gaiam.com/quotes/authors/tom-beaudoin>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/53112.Tom_Beaudoin

[Images for tom beaudoin, author consuming faith](#)

[Images for Integrating Who We Are with What We Buy \[Tom Beaudoin Fordham University author of Consuming Faith\]](#)

Ideas about Consumerism - TED Talks

Watch TED Talks about consumerism, buying and selling.

<https://www.ted.com/topics/consumerism>

[Images for TED Talks about consumerism, buying and selling](#)

110 best consumerism images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/sivanrobin/consumerism/>

[Images for consumerism pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/posey2/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/ramiyulzari/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/myklray/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/oscarmanuelblan/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/alowery2929/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/teekenny/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/profragsdale/sojuststuff-consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/sethsmommy/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/mhunter0991/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/yerkelmarr/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/christebird/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/AbiGibsonDesign/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/baconsophie/consumerism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/thesocycinema/consumption-consumerism/>

The Christian Consumer: Living Faithfully in a Fragile World by Laura M. Hartman (Author)

Be it fair trade coffee or foreign oil, our choices as consumers affect the well-being of humans around the globe, not to mention the natural world and of course ourselves. Consumption is a serious ethical issue, and Christian writers throughout history have weighed in, discussing topics such as affluence and poverty, greed and gluttony, and proper stewardship of resources. These voices are often at odds, however. In this book, Laura M. Hartman formulates a coherent Christian ethic of consumption, imposing order on the debate by dividing it into four imperatives: Christians are to consume in ways that avoid sin, embrace creation, love one's neighbor, and envision the future. An adequate ethics of consumption, she argues, must include all four considerations as tools for discernment, even when they seem to contradict one another. The book includes discussions of Christian practices such as fasting, gratitude, solidarity, gift-giving, Sabbath-keeping, and the Eucharist. Using exemplars from the Christian tradition and practical examples from everyday life, *The Christian Consumer* offers a thoughtful guide to ethical consumption.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Christian-Consumer-Faithfully-Fragile/dp/0199746427>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11358157-the-christian-consumer>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/christian-consumer-laura-m-hartman/1102103826>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0199746427>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0199912513>

[The Christian Consumer: Living Faithfully in a Fragile World](#)

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/551529> (review)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/novemberweb-only/christianconsumer.html>

<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199746422.001.0001/acprof-9780199746422>

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/15685357-01603007>

http://www.onu.edu/news/author_laura_m_hartman_to_discuss_consumerism_christian_ethics

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-19-974642-2> Nonfiction Book Review
https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the_christian_consumer
<https://lauramhartmantalks.wordpress.com/>
<https://www.uwosh.edu/facstaff/hartman/>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4850702.Laura_M_Hartman
[Images for Laura M. Hartman \(Author\)](#)
[Images for The Christian Consumer by Laura M. Hartman \(Author\)](#)

The Consuming Passion: Christianity and the Consumer Culture [Rodney Clapp]

Convinced that nothing may influence and affect the faith of Christians in the Western, “developed” world so much as consumerism, the editor of Consuming Passion has brought together articles showing how people of faith might best respond to this reality.

-A team of leading scholars provide theological critique of the dynamics of a consumer culture.

-Provocative analysis of the intersection of consumerism and environment, religion, multi-ethnicity and anthropology.

-Insight on how Christians should respond to consumerism. Nothing May Influence and Affect The Faith Of Christians in the Western, “developed” world so much as consumerism. Theologians and biblical scholars have often pondered the dangers and the privileges of money. But few have focused on consumption as culture or a way of life, complete with its own set of attitudes, behaviors and purposes for living.

The Consuming Passion does exactly that, relying on insightful theologians, psychologists, sociologists, ecologists and economists to probe beneath and better understand what makes consumer culture work - and how people of faith might best respond.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Consuming-Passion-Christianity-Consumer/dp/0830818979>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/240619.The_Consuming_Passion
<http://en.netlog.com/tashabeamon/blog/blogid=19846598>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1609949293> Notes Chapter 12
<https://www.librarything.com/work/542995>
<http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/book-reviews/9037279/affluent-christians>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/140815.Rodney_Clapp
[Images for Rodney Clapp, author](#)
[Images for The Consuming Passion: Christianity and the Consumer Culture \[Rodney Clapp\]](#)

The Money Lie: Consumerism's Empty Promise (Philippians 3:17-41) By Rev. Adam J. Copeland

At the heart of the story Americans tell themselves is a close link between progress and material goods. Work is to be valued, and work leads to money. With money we can buy things—“goods”—we call them. And in these things, we seek to find comfort. But it's a lie, of course.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-adam-j-copeland/the-money-lie-consumerisms-empty-promise-philippians-317-41-b_9239814.html

[Images for Consumerism's Empty Promise By Rev. Adam J. Copeland](#)
<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2016/02/16/the-money-lie-consumerisms-empty-promise/>
[Images for Consumerism's Empty Promise](#)
https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=acopeland001
http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ESC_Giving_Magazine_ELCA_16.pdf Not so Simple: Living in Christ

Thieves in the Temple: The Christian Church and the Selling of the American Soul [G. Jeffrey MacDonald]

What has become of the Christian Church? Once devoted to molding Americans into better people, in recent years the Christian Church has gotten a corporate makeover. In a desperate attempt to bolster membership rolls, ministers have begun to treat their churches more like companies, and their congregations more like customers.

As a minister in a small church and as a national religion reporter, journalist G. Jeffrey MacDonald witnessed firsthand this lapse into **consumerism**. He realized that, in an effort to cast a wide net for souls, churches have sacrificed their authority to transform Americans' self-serving impulses for the better. In the headlong rush to operate more like businesses, churches are sacrificing their moral authority, perhaps permanently. The result is a crisis for the American conscience. MacDonald's incisive critique of today's movement away from true religion shows how desperately America needs a new religious reformation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Thieves-Temple-Christian-Selling-American/dp/B004NSVF9A>
<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/0465009328>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/thieves-in-the-temple-g-jeffrey-macdonald/1100299159?ean=9780465021093>
<http://theaquilareport.com/book-review-thieves-in-the-temple/>
<http://www.thievesinthetemplebook.com/>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0465063772>
https://books.google.com/books/about/Thieves_in_the_Temple.html?id=cQil7G6qjXgC
<http://www.johnpiippo.com/2016/09/consumer-religion-fuels-clergy-burnout.html>
<http://www.evangelicalsforaction.org/resource/book-review/thieves-in-the-temple-by-g-jeffrey-macdonald/>
http://day1.org/4209-chris_yaw_interviews_g_jeffrey_macdonald_beware_of_thieves_in_the_temple
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-465-00932-9> Nonfiction Book Review
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/g-jeffrey-macdonald>
<http://www.popmatters.com/review/172909-thieves-in-the-temple-by-g-jeffrey-macdonald/>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/opinion/08macdonald.html?hp> Congregations Gone Wild

<http://www.gjeffreymacdonald.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/g.macdonald.7>
<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/g-jeffrey-macdonald>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/g-jeffrey-macdonald>
<https://www.csmonitor.com/Books/Book-Reviews/2010/0510/Thieves-in-the-Temple>
<http://religionnews.com/author/jeffmacdonald/>
<https://www.ncronline.org/authors/g-jeffrey-macdonald>
<https://sojo.net/biography/g-jeffrey-macdonald-religion-news-service>
<https://www.minnpost.com/author/g-jeffrey-macdonald-christian-science-monitor>
 Images for G. Jeffrey MacDonald, author thieves in the temple
 Images for Thieves in the Temple: The Christian Church and the Selling of the American Soul [G. Jeffrey MacDonald]

What is Consumerism? - YouTube

Our entire culture is dominated by it. Everyone wants to get something new. A tv, phone, car, you get the point. But what is consumerism and why does it drive modern capitalism today?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9gcGjCF60o>
 Images for What is Consumerism? - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-Ung3R--M0> HISTORY: CONSUMERISM - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFIMQApIpg> What is Consumerism?: The story of consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0hVssOPcPg> What is the New Consumerism? - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-7v2WGiTe8> consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l5fRI-YnG0> Consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVWTD-c2gCE> The Truth about Consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R1rLXX2p5M> Consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4mhF65S5i8> Consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBI-qc7KP8> Materialism & Consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moUYmw2Q8ys> Consumerism Exposed - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7ByUpGTK1k> American Consumerism - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eWBg8ojno4> THE STORY OF STUFF - Consumerism, Capitalism, and Environment in America - YouTube

6) Possessed by what or whom?

I seek to be possessed by God rather than being possessed by possessions.

Resources

Biblical References About Possessions by Center for Stewardship Leaders – Luther Seminary

Jesus spent a great deal of time establishing that our relationship to the material world has strong spiritual implications.
 Seventeen of the thirty-eight parables are about possessions. Of the number of various topics mentioned in the Bible:
 Believe(ers/ing) appears 272 times.
 Prayer appears 372 times.
 Love or loving appears 714 times.
 Possessions or giving appear 2,172 times.

http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/resource_detail.aspx?resource_id=253
 Images for Biblical References About Possessions
http://www.peacelutheranlc.com/Quotes_to_Ponder.PDF

God and Your Stuff: The Vital Link Between Your Possessions and Your Soul (Designed for Influence) [Wesley K Willmer, Martyn Smith]

Explore the biblical foundation for the crucial connection between our eternal souls and our earthly possessions. Learn how our use of possessions is a good barometer of our character, and how our giving practices develop our faith and shape us into the stewards God intended us to be.

<http://www.amazon.com/God-Your-Stuff-Possessions-Influence/dp/1576832341>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/god-and-your-stuff-wesley-k-willmer/1100988553>
<http://www.bookideas.com/reviews/index.cfm?fuseaction=displayReview&id=1386>
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/ministry-resources/church-giving-tithing-generosity-stewardship.html>
<http://www.epm.org/authors/wesley-k-willmer/>
<https://www.moodypublishers.com/authors/w/wesley-k-willmer/>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/387646.Wesley_K_Willmer
 Images for Wesley K Willmer, author
<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/authors/w/willmer-wesley-k>
<http://generositymonk.com/w/2009/07/11/wesley-k-willmer-on-god-and-your-stuff/>
<http://www.lawrence.edu/academics/study/classics/faculty>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/387645.Martyn_Smith

[Images for Martyn Smith, author possessions and your soul](#)

[Images for God and Your Stuff: The Vital Link Between Your Possessions and Your Soul \(Designed for Influence\) \[Wesley K Willmer, Martyn Smith\]](#)

[God and Your Stuff: The Vital Link Between Your Possessions and Your Soul - Pinterest](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/86359-designed-for-influence>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/series/designed-for-influence/65831/>

[Images for designed for influence series](#)

Money, Possessions, and Eternity [Randy Alcorn]

What does the Bible really say about money? This completely revised and updated version of the classic best-seller provides a Christian perspective about money and material possessions based on the author's painstaking study of the Bible. Randy Alcorn uses the Scriptures to approach this often touchy subject head-on. Thought-provoking arguments challenge readers to rethink their attitudes and use their God-given resources in ways that will have an eternal impact. Alcorn deals straightforwardly with issues of materialism, stewardship, prosperity theology, debt, and more. An excellent choice for group study as well as individual financial guidance. Includes a study guide and appendix with additional resources.

<http://www.amazon.com/Money-Possessions-Eternity-Randy-Alcorn/dp/0842353607>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/67084.Money_Possessions_and_Eternity

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/money-possession-and-eternity-randy-alcorn/1101141097>

<https://www.trinitybookservice.com/money-possession-and-eternity-by-randy-alcorn-paperback/>

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/money-possession-and-eternity-P001185605>

<https://www.tyndale.com/p/money-possession-and-eternity/9780842353601>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1414341644>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Money_Possessions_and_Eternity.html?id=OUmSywQ-chkC

http://www.epm.org/static/uploads/downloads/book-resources/Money_Possessions_and_Eternity.pdf

http://barnabasfoundation.com/media/uploads/files/Money_Possessions_Eternity.pdf

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/alcorn-money-possession-and-eternity.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBFC4ha5WMC> Randy Alcorn Talks About Money, Possessions & Eternity – YouTube

<http://www.epm.org/> Eternal Perspective Ministries: Official website of author Randy Alcorn

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Randy_Alcorn

<https://www.amazon.com/Randy-Alcorn/e/B000APPQ0E>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4862.Randy_Alcorn

[Images for randy alcorn author](#)

[Images for Money, Possessions, and Eternity \[Randy Alcorn\]](#)

Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions (New Studies in Biblical Theology) [Craig L. Blomberg]

Give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread. (Proverbs 30:8)

One of the most difficult questions facing Christians today is that of the proper attitude toward possessions. In wealthy nations, such as Britain and the USA, individuals accumulate much and yet are daily exposed to the plight of the poor, whether the homeless on their own city streets or starving children on their TV screens. What action should we take on behalf of the poor? What should we do with our own possessions?

In *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions* Craig Blomberg asks what the Bible has to say about these issues. Avoiding easy answers, he instead seeks a comprehensive biblical theology of possessions. And, so he begins with the groundwork laid by the Old Testament and the ideas developed in the inter-testamental period, then draws out what the whole New Testament has to say on the subject, and finally offers conclusions and applications relevant to our contemporary world.

<http://www.amazon.com/Neither-Poverty-nor-Riches-Possessions/dp/0830826076>

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/169384.Neither_Poverty_Nor_Riches

<https://www.christianbook.com/Neither-poverty-riches-biblical-theology-posessions/craig-blomberg/9780830826070/pd/26070>

<https://www.logos.com/product/80698/Neither-poverty-nor-riches-a-biblical-theology-of-posessions>

<https://www.ivpress.com/Neither-poverty-nor-riches-ebook>

<https://www.scribd.com/book/367964273/Neither-Poverty-nor-Riches-A-Biblical-Theology-of-Possessions>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Neither_Poverty_Nor_Riches.html?id=rB5MkLDvFKwC

http://www.2shared.com/document/1dYA21zD/Neither_Poverty_nor_Riches_-_A.html

http://www.transfigurationpittsford.org/christian_formation/Book%20Reviews/Neither-Poverty-nor-Riches.pdf

<http://practiceofpiety.com/2013/02/book-review-neither-poverty-nor-riches-a-biblical-theology-of-posessions/>

<http://www.eldrbarry.net/clas/stew/10107.pdf>

http://www.theopedia.com/Craig_Blomberg

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830899332>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Neither_Poverty_Nor_Riches.html?id=QzMSAQAAIAAJ

https://books.google.com/books/about/Neither_Poverty_Nor_Riches.html?id=8uPnQAAACAAJ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GktMAY_tsN0 Blomberg on Neither Poverty Nor Riches - YouTube

https://www.logos.com/resources/LLS_NSBT07/Neither-poverty-nor-riches-a-biblical-theology-of-material-posessions

<http://www.marketsandmorality.com/index.php/mandm/article/viewFile/705/685>

http://2600:1008:b11d:60d:b20b:cd96:3899:c498:8181/http://www.wtsbooks.com/common/pdf_links/9780830826070.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GktMAY_tsN0 Blomberg on Neither Poverty Nor Riches - YouTube

https://books.google.com/books/about/Neither_Poverty_Nor_Riches.html?id=rB5MkLDvFKwC

http://www.transfigurationpittsford.org/christian_formation/Book%20Reviews/Neither-Poverty-nor-Riches.pdf
<http://andynaselli.com/five-conclusions-about-material-possessions>
<https://biblicalspirituality.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/a-book-review-of-craig-l-blombergs-neither-poverty-nor-riches.pdf>
https://www.logos.com/resources/LLS_NSBT07/neither-poverty-nor-riches-a-biblical-theology-of-material-possessions
<http://www.reasonsforgod.org/2013/02/quote-of-the-week-craig-blomberg-on-money-and-the-bible/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig_Blomberg
<http://www.denverseminary.edu/about/faculty/member/86444/>
<https://christianuniversity.org/professors/dr-craig-l-blomberg/>
<http://www.theopedia.com/craig-blomberg>
<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-Blomberg/e/B001HCY7S6>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/98711.Craig_L_Blomberg
[Images for Craig L. Blomberg, author](#)
[Images for A Biblical Theology of Possessions \(New Studies in Biblical Theology\) \[Craig L. Blomberg\]](#)
<https://www.ivpress.com/new-studies-in-biblical-theology>
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/pages/nsbt>
<https://www.logos.com/product/53670/new-studies-in-biblical-theology>
<http://www.wtsbooks.com/new-studies-in-biblical-theology-series-39-volume-set-9780830826001>
[Images for New Studies in Biblical Theology](#)

Possessions and the Christian Life in Luke-Acts by Center for Stewardship Leaders - Luther Seminary

How can Luke-Acts help twenty-first century American Christians make sense of our abundance of possessions? Eric Barreto, assistant professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, shares some insights in this video.

<http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4207>
[Images for Possessions and the Christian Life in Luke-Acts by Eric Barreto](#)
<https://day1.org/articles/5d9b820ef71918cdf2003bfe/on-scripture-sell-all-your-possessions-acts-43235-eric-d-barreto>
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/supplement_6.aspx
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/onscripture/2015/04/sell-all-your-possessions-acts-432-35/>
<https://www.enterthebible.org/blog.aspx?m=3783&author=32ef49a60f0a05d02df9124d118754f34a68ad09b3530e14db3af2f1e9e18dfa>

Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands, Second Edition: Luke Timothy Johnson

“This book is written as an exercise in theological reflection on one of the knottiest questions imaginable: the connection between being a Christian and the way we own and use things... When we turn to thinking about money and possessions, we find ourselves in murky waters. The things we own and use, like our sexuality, lie close to the bone of our individual and collective sense of identity.”

So writes respected scholar Luke Timothy Johnson in his introduction to *Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands*. Stepping purposefully into the “murky waters” of owning and sharing, Johnson endeavors to clarify and define the ambiguous concept of human possession — especially in relation to God’s divine ownership — and to discern the Bible’s teaching on the mystery of human possessing and possessiveness.

This second edition, reflecting thirty years of Johnson’s further thinking on the subject, features chapters expanded with fresh insights, helpful new study questions for each chapter, and a substantial epilogue updating the work.

<http://www.amazon.com/Sharing-Possessions-Faith-Demands-Second/dp/0802803997>
<https://www.logos.com/product/43906/sharing-possessions-what-faith-demands-2nd-ed>
http://books.google.com/books/about/Sharing_Possessions_What_Faith_Demands.html?id=Gia72CChwgsC
[Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands, Second Edition](#)
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/evangelion/2011/07/book-notice-sharing-possessions/>
<http://cslr.law.emory.edu/publications/publication/title/sharing-possessions-what-faith-demands-second-edition/>
<http://cbryden.me.uk/files/201204-Modern-Believing-Review-of-Sharing-Possessions.pdf>
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/evangelion/2011/07/book-notice-sharing-possessions/>
<http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/0399/sharing-possessions.aspx>
<http://candler.emory.edu/faculty/emeriti-profiles/johnson-luke-timothy.html>
<http://www.thegreatcourses.com/professors/luke-timothy-johnson/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luke_Timothy_Johnson
<http://fortresspress.com/author/luke-timothy-johnson>
<https://www.amazon.com/Luke-Timothy-Johnson/e/B000APXUUC>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/43804.Luke_Timothy_Johnson
[Images for Luke Timothy Johnson, author](#)
[Images for Sharing Possessions: What Faith Demands, Second Edition: Luke Timothy Johnson](#)

Wealth as Peril and Obligation: The New Testament on Possessions [Sondra Ely Wheeler]

Demonstrates that Scripture can both form and inform contemporary thinking on wealth issues. Wheeler provides a careful interpretation of key New Testament texts. The result is a practical, biblical statement on wealth and ownership that can help Christians and Churches come to grip with the economic ethical issues of the day.

<http://www.amazon.com/Wealth-Peril-Obligation-Testament-Possessions/dp/080280733X>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1124450.Wealth_as_Peril_and_Obligation
<http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/0733/wealth-as-peril-and-obligation.aspx>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Wealth_As_Peril_and_Obligation.html?id=JzFU8RgDkvoC
<http://int.sagepub.com/content/51/2/206.2.extract>
<http://www.counterbalance.org/bio/wheel-frame.html>
<https://www.amazon.com/Sondra-Ely-Wheeler/e/B0011ZV75S>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/264609.Sondra_Ely_Wheeler
[Images for Sondra Ely Wheeler, author](#)
[Images for Wealth as Peril and Obligation: The New Testament on Possessions \[Sondra Ely Wheeler\]](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Material Possessions? - OpenBible.info

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/material-possession>
https://www.openbible.info/topics/material_things
[Images for bible and material possessions](#)
<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-material-possession/>
<http://bibleasons.com/materialism/>
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Material-Possessions/>
<https://www.gotquestions.org/materialism-Christian.html>

7) A clear choice

Stand at the foot of the cross and worship the crucified one.
Worship the god of Narcissus at the altar of affluenza.

The gospel is not a new philosophy

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

oremus Bible Browser: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=55757277>

[Images for gospel is not a new philosophy](#)

Resources for Narcissus

Narcissus and Echo - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35jVsyWFss4>

[Images for Narcissus and Echo - YouTube](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZF8iFt_mX8 The Mythology of Narcissus – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCFVwbiEJEs> Narcissus and Echo Greek Fable Cartoon from 1987 - YouTube

Narcissus (mythology) - Wikipedia

In [Greek mythology](#), Narcissus (/nɑːrˈsɪsəs/; Greek: Νάρκισσος, *Nárkissos*) was a hunter from [Thespieae](#) in [Boeotia](#) who was known for his beauty. He was the son of the river god [Cephissus](#) and nymph [Liriope](#).^[1] He was proud, in that he disdained those who loved him. [Nemesis](#) noticed this behavior and attracted Narcissus to a pool, where he saw his own reflection in the water and fell in love with it, not realizing it was merely an image. Unable to leave the beauty of his reflection, Narcissus lost his will to live. He stared at his reflection until he died. Narcissus is the origin of the term [narcissism](#), a fixation with oneself and one's physical appearance.



Narcissus by Caravaggio depicts Narcissus gazing at his own reflection.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_(mythology))

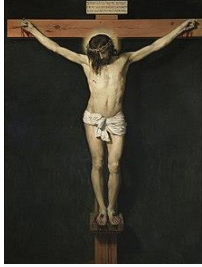
[Images for narcissus mythology](#)

Resources for crucifixion

Crucifixion of Jesus - Wikipedia

The crucifixion of Jesus occurred during the [1st century AD](#), most probably between the years 30 and 33. According to the accounts in the [New Testament](#), [Jesus](#), whom [Christians](#) believe to be the [Son of God](#) as well as the [Messiah](#), was [arrested](#), [tried](#), and [sentenced by Pontius Pilate](#) to be [scourged](#), and finally [crucified](#). Collectively referred to as

the [Passion](#), Jesus' suffering and redemptive death by crucifixion are the central aspects of [Christian theology](#) concerning the doctrines of [salvation](#) and [atonement](#).



Christ Crucified (c. 1632) by Diego Velázquez. Museo del Prado, Madrid

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus

[Images for Crucifixion of Jesus](#)

http://www.jesus-story.net/painting_crucifixion.htm

Enemies of the Cross of Christ

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

[Philippians 3:18-20 - Bible Gateway](#)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3:18-20>

[Images for Enemies of the Cross of Christ](#)

Message about the Cross

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

[oremus Bible Browser: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=290945209>

[Images for Message about the Cross](#)

Resources for affluenza

[Affluence is the Major Issue for the Church Today - Luther Seminary](#)

"The denial of affluence is the major issue facing our church and our society," said Pastor Gary Langness, at an Ecumenical Stewardship Lunch at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. We need to help our people to understand that they are affluent while many think they are not wealthy. People always compare themselves with anyone who has more, not with a realization that 95 percent of the world has less."

https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?stew_redirect=resource&post=3770

[Images for Affluence is the Major Issue for the Church Today](#)

Affluenza: PBS Program on the Epidemic of Overconsumption

Af-flu-en-za n. 1. The bloated, sluggish and unfulfilled feeling that results from efforts to keep up with the Joneses. 2. An epidemic of stress, overwork, waste and indebtedness caused by dogged pursuit of the American Dream. 3. An unsustainable addiction to economic growth. 4. A television program that could change your life.

Affluenza is a one-hour television special that explores the high social and environmental costs of materialism and overconsumption. Here you can learn more about the [show](#), get an Affluenza [diagnosis](#) and check out resources for [treatment](#). Don't miss our Teacher's Guide available only on this Web site.

[Escape from Affluenza](#) is the solution-oriented sequel to Affluenza. Hosted by Wanda Urbanska, co-author of Simple Living, Escape picks up where Affluenza left off by profiling people and organizations that are reducing consumption and waste, choosing work that reflects their values and working to live in better balance with the environment.

Affluenza is a production of KCTS/Seattle and Oregon Public Broadcasting and was made possible by a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/affluenza/>

<http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/affl.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/affluenza/>

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/affluenza/>

[Images for Affluenza: PBS Program on the Epidemic of Overconsumption](#)

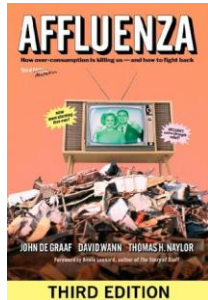
[Affluenza Quotes \(7 quotes\) - Goodreads](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/affluenza>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/27417.Clive_Hamilton
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/27415.Oliver_James
[Images for affluenza quotes](#)
<https://me.me/t/affluenza/quotes/yiYzbq5D7Kdz/>
<http://www.supersummary.com/affluenza/important-quotes/>

Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic (Bk Currents) [John de Graaf, David Wann, Thomas H Naylor, David Horsey]

Based on two highly acclaimed PBS documentaries watched by 10 million viewers, *Affluenza* uses the whimsical metaphor of a disease to tackle a very serious subject: the damage done -- to our health, our families, our communities, and our environment -- by the obsessive quest for material gain. In cleverly titled chapters like "Swollen Expectations" and "A Rash of Bankruptcies," the authors examine the origins, evolution, and symptoms of the affluenza epidemic. Yet they also explore cures and suggest strategies for rebuilding families and communities and for restoring and respecting the earth. Demonstrating that now, more than ever, Americans need ways of fighting the affliction, this edition includes a new introduction and updated figures, adds information on the impacts of stress and overwork, and provides an in-depth look at various campaigns and movements offering solutions for today's problems. Engaging, fast-paced, and accessible, it reexamines a serious, far-reaching issue for a wide audience.



<http://www.amazon.com/Affluenza-All-Consuming-Epidemic-Bk-Currents/dp/1576753573>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/affluenza-john-de-graaf/1122972261>

http://www.bkconnection.com/static/Affluenza_EXCERPT.pdf

<http://voices.yahoo.com/affluenza-all-consuming-epidemic-book-review-50723.html>

<http://wannabwestern.hubpages.com/hub/Affluenza-the-All-Consuming-Epidemic>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affluenza:_The_All-Consuming_Epidemic

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxfGzxehhm4> Affluenza (Part 1) – 1132 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE5YLELF3cs> Affluenza (Part 2) - 1132 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNxsb4Q5hzM> Affluenza (Part 3) - 1132 - YouTube

<http://neweconomy.net/people/john-de-graaf>

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/can-love-save-the-world/affluenza>

<http://www.theaffluenzaproject.com/home/resources/>

<http://www.humansandnature.org/john-de-graaf>

<https://www.facebook.com/john.degraaf.71>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-de-graaf-437b695>

<https://www.amazon.com/John-De-Graaf/e/B001JRTNVU>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27414.John_De_Graaf

[Images for John de Graaf, author affluenza](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/David-Wann/e/B001JRXVS6>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/24692.David_Wann

[Images for David Wann, author affluenza](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-H-Naylor/e/B001H6OELC>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27413.Thomas_H_Naylor

[Images for Thomas H Naylor, author affluenza](#)

[Images for David Horsey, author affluenza](#)

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/44527.Vicki_Robin

[Images for Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic \(Bk Currents\) \[John de Graaf, David Wann, Thomas H Naylor, David Horsey\]](#)

Affluenza - Wikipedia

Affluenza, a portmanteau of *affluence* and *influenza*, is a term used by critics of consumerism. The book *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic* defines it as "a painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more."^[1] The term "affluenza" has also been used to refer to inability to understand the consequences of one's actions because of financial privilege, notably in the case of Ethan Couch.^[2]

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affluenza>

[Images for affluenza](#)

41 best Affluenza images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/femininewear/affluenza/>

[Images for affluenza pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/affluenza-movie/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/marenlouise/anti-consumerism-fighting-affluenza/>
[Images for pinterest/anti-consumerism-fighting-affluenza](#)

The Golden Ghetto: The Psychology of Affluence [Jessie H. O'Neill]

In *The Golden Ghetto*, Jessie H. O'Neill, granddaughter of Charles Erwin Wilson, one-time president of General Motors, provides a penetrating look at why attaining wealth proves to be a hollow achievement for many. A psychotherapist, O'Neill has based her professional practice on understanding and treating the problems of those who have amassed great wealth, and her book is both a description of their lives and an analysis of and prescription for the problems they've had to face. While O'Neill's main focus is on the very rich, the lessons to be learned from their lives have a far broader application. *The Golden Ghetto* is in fact inhabited by millions of Americans, rich and poor alike, who embrace and endlessly pursue the fantasy that more is better, while allowing all that is truly worthwhile – loving relationships, the selfless giving of oneself, and spiritual growth – to fall by the wayside.

The *The Golden Ghetto* shows us how to right our own relationship with money, and offers insightful suggestions for repairing the psychological and cultural damage our misguided beliefs about money, power, and happiness have caused.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Golden-Ghetto-Psychology-Affluence/dp/0967855403>
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/918975.The_Golden_Ghetto
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-golden-ghetto-jessie-h-oneill/1110828331>
<https://www.betterworldbooks.com/product/detail/the-golden-ghetto-the-psychology-of-affluence-9780967855400>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Golden_Ghetto.html?id=E8QCAAAACAAJ
<https://archive.org/details/goldenghettopsy00onei>
<http://www.theaffluenzaproject.com/>
<http://www.theaffluenzaproject.com/home/aboutjessie/>
<http://nymag.com/nymetro/news/bizfinance/biz/features/1872/>
<http://www.shrinkrapradio.com/63.pdf>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Golden_Ghetto.html?id=E8QCAAAACAAJ
<http://www.livescience.com/41953-what-is-affluenza-contagious.html>
<http://inheritance-project.com/cms/?p=1510> The affluenza buzzword | The Inheritance Project Publications
<https://forwardprogressives.com/affluenza-an-unhappy-condition-of-overload-debt-anxiety-and-waste-resulting-from-the-dogged-pursuit-of-more/>
<http://www.avondalepartnersllc.com/blog/affluenza-aint-just-trust-fund-babies/>
<http://www.vanityfair.com/news/2000/01/rockefellers-200001>
http://www.legacy-resources.com/library_6.html
<https://ricepsychology.com/behavior/the-psychological-price-of-affluence/>
<http://nymag.com/nymetro/news/bizfinance/biz/features/1872/>
<https://www.wcspeakers.com/speaker.cfm?ID=1899>
[Images for Jessie H. O'Neill, author golden ghetto](#)
[Images for The Golden Ghetto: The Psychology of Affluence \[Jessie H. O'Neill\]](#)

Why the Devil Takes Plastic Affluenza – Luther Seminary

The character we hope for as Christians puts us at odds with the consumeristic way of life.

http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/resource_detail.aspx?resource_id=87
[Images for Why the Devil Takes Plastic Affluenza](#)

8) Distinguishing between necessities and luxuries, needs and wants

I attended a workshop by Nathan Dungan of **Share Save Spend – Financial Sanity** where he invited the participants to engage in an exercise of considering various items and determining whether they were needs or wants. For better or worse, these kinds of decisions are made all the time either intentionally or unintentionally.

[PDF]money sanity - Share Save Spend

2 **Needs and Wants** Understanding how they are different 23

<http://www.sharesavespend.com/sites/default/files/files/pdf/38-25-money-sanity-solutions-sample-pages.pdf>
[Images for money sanity - Share Save Spend 2 Needs and Wants Understanding how they are different](#)
<http://www.startribune.com/a-conversation-with-nathan-dungan-developer-of-money-sanity-u/382447331/>
<https://onbeing.org/programs/nathan-dungan-money-and-moral-balance/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Nathan-Dungan/e/B001HCWWAG>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4849.Nathan_Dungan
[Images for nathan dungan](#)

Resources

Budgeting First Steps: Separating Needs from Wants - dummies

The first step to creating a budget is to sort expenses into three categories: needs, wants, and luxury items.

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/budgeting-first-steps-separating-needs-from-wants.html>
Images for Budgeting First Steps: Separating Needs from Wants - dummies
<https://www.nomoredebts.org/budgeting/budgeting-strategies/separate-needs-from-wants>
<https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-separate-wants-and-needs-453592>
<https://www.thesimpledollar.com/separating-needs-wants-and-what-you-really-want/>
<https://www.dummies.com/personal-finance/budgeting/budgeting-first-steps-separating-needs-from-wants/>
<https://twocents.lifehacker.com/seven-questions-you-should-ask-to-separate-wants-from-n-1581740915>
<https://www.focusonwealth.com.au/articles/separating-needs-from-wants.html>
<https://theatretruths.com/2018/01/17/separate-wants-from-needs/>
<https://www.wisebread.com/in-times-like-these-separate-the-want-from-the-need>
<https://www.remmax.com/blog/own-it-separating-wants-from-needs/>
<https://komonews.com/news/consumer/budgeting-tip-separate-needs-from-wants>
Images for budgeting-tip-separate-needs-from-wants
<https://www.igrad.com/articles/wants-versus-needs>
<https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/finance/financial-needs-versus-wants/>
Images for financial-needs-vs-wants
<https://www.cheatsheet.com/money-career/real-difference-between-needs-and-wants-people-ignore.html/>
<https://www.investopedia.com/university/guide-to-planning-a-yearly-budget/needs-wants.asp>
<http://zerolimitation.com/2015/10/26/money-tip-separating-needs-from-wants/>

Needs vs. Luxuries | The Classroom | Synonym

If someone asked you to write a list of things you couldn't live without, your car, clothes drier and microwave would likely make the cut. However, if your parents were asked to write the same list when they were your age, they might have labeled those same items as luxuries, a 2006 Pew Research Center study found. The study also found that as the years go by, people think they need more things. It's not always easy to distinguish between what you need and things you want, but doing so can help you budget your money for things you need and want most in life.

<http://classroom.synonym.com/needs-vs-luxuries-17233.html>

Images for Needs vs. Luxuries

<http://classroom.synonym.com/money-management-skills-teens-luxury-items-vs-necessities-16190.html>

<https://pocketsense.com/needs-vs-luxuries-17233.html>

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2006/12/14/luxury-or-necessity/>

<https://www.positivelypositive.com/2014/09/06/luxury-or-necessity/>

<https://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/09/luxury-or-necessity/>

<http://millionsofmouths.com/blog/2009/09/20/luxuries-vs-basic-needs/>

Images for Luxuries vs. Basic Needs

<https://www.moneycrashers.com/difference-between-needs-wants-luxuries/>

http://www.forbes.com/2006/04/17/marriage-financial-planning-cx_sr_0417marriagetwo.html Needs, Wants, Luxuries - Forbes

Images for Needs, Wants, Luxuries - Forbes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ERB9mtVpYI> Sotheby's International Realty's Kevin Thompson: Millennials Are The New Luxury Consumers | Forbes - YouTube

Wants vs. Needs: Secret to Successfully Prioritizing Expenses - iGrad

Though it's okay to spend on a few luxuries once in a while, your priority should always be your needs rather than your wants. In [managing your budget](#) and your income, you have to learn to differentiate between the two first.

<http://www.igrad.com/articles/wants-versus-needs>

Images for Wants vs. Needs: Secret to Successfully Prioritizing Expenses - iGrad

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<https://www.shutterstock.com/search/wants+versus+needs>

<https://www.shutterstock.com/search/needs+and+wants>

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What is the difference between Need and Necessity? - ResearchGate

As per my knowledge goes, the need and necessity is a similar condition where the difference between the two lies on the priority.

https://www.researchgate.net/post/What_is_the_difference_between_Need_and_Necessity

Images for difference between need and necessity

<https://www.quora.com/Whats-the-difference-between-needs-and-necessities>

<https://english.stackexchange.com/questions/395985/what-is-the-difference-between-need-and-necessity>

<https://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-need-and-vs-necessity/>

<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=1006052650515> What the difference between needs and necessity?
<https://wikidiff.com/need/necessity>
[Images for difference between Need and Necessity on Pinterest](#)

9) Covet more or content with less?

People of faith can demonstrate a counter-cultural attitude amidst the dominant culture regarding goods and money.

Resources

THE SMALL CATECHISM

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not **covet** your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not craftily seek to gain our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor get it by a show of right, but help and serve him in keeping it.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not **covet** your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not tempt, force or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers but urge them to stay and do their duty.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

[Images for You shall not covet your neighbor's house.](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Contentment? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/contentment>

[Images for Bible and Contentment](#)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-contentment.html>

<http://everydayservant.com/top-10-bible-verses-how-to-find-contentment/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-contentment/>

<https://www.biblemoney.com/10-bible-verses-about-contentment-how-can-we-feel-contentment-in-a-restless-world/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Contentment>

<https://ebible.com/questions/933-what-does-the-bible-say-about-contentment>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-21-prescription-contentment-1-timothy-66-8>

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<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-secret-to-peace-and-contentment>

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<https://www.allaboutfollowingjesus.org/christian-contentment.htm>

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<https://www.stewardshipcentral.org/posts/contentment-and-jellyfish>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewYRzjwEbeU> "What Does The Bible Say About Contentment?" - YouTube

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What Does the Bible Say About Covet? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/covet>

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<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Coveting/>

<https://lifehopeandtruth.com/bible/10-commandments/covet-10th-commandment/>

[Images for covet 10th commandment](#)

<https://biblereasons.com/coveting/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Coveting.-Prohibition-Of>

[Images for prohibition of coveting](#)

<https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/december-2013/thou-shalt-not-covet/>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/23-everything-you-ever-wanted-know-about-coveting-and-whole-lot-more-exodus-2017>

<https://www.bethelco.org/gods-commandments/what-coveting-leads-to/>

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2014/05/26/what-does-covet-mean-bible-definition-of-covet-or-coveting/>

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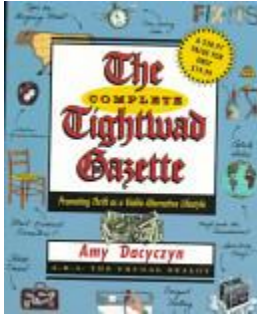
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10) In praise of the new frugality

I received *The Tightwad Gazette* newsletter while I was living in an old log cabin in the open country near Prairie Farm, Wisconsin, that is after my mother got done with it, but she died in 1996, and the newsletter ceased production in December of that same year.

The Complete Tightwad Gazette [Amy Dacyczyn]

In a newsletter published from May 1990 to December 1996 as well as in three enormously successful books, Amy Dacyczyn established herself as the expert of economy. Now *The Complete Tightwad Gazette* brings together all of her best ideas and thriftiest thinking into one volume, along with new articles never published before in book format. Dacyczyn describes this collection as "the book I wish I'd had when I began my adult life." Packed with humor, creativity, and insight, *The Complete Tightwad Gazette* includes hundreds of tips and topics, such as: Travel for tightwads, How to transform old blue jeans into potholders and quilts, Ten painless ways to save \$100 this year, Picture-framing for pennies, A comparison of painting versus re-siding your house, Halloween costumes from scrounged materials, Thrifty window treatments, Ways to dry up dry-cleaning costs, Inexpensive gifts, Creative fundraisers for kids, Slashing your electric bill, Frugal fix-its, Cutting the cost of college, Moving for less, Saving on groceries, Gift-wrapping for tightwads, Furniture-fusion fundamentals, Cheap breakfast cereals, Avoiding credit card debt, Using items you were about to throw away (milk jugs, plastic meat trays, and more!), Recipes galore, from penny-pinching pizza to toaster pastries, And much, much, more . . .



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https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/304661.The_Complete_Tightwad_Gazette
<http://www.thesimpledollar.com/an-interview-with-amy-dacyczyn-the-author-of-the-tightwad-gazette/>
<http://twofrugalfairfielders.com/2012/04/30/5-top-things-i-learned-about-frugality-from-amy-dacyczyns-tightwad-gazette/>
<https://www.facebook.com/TightwadGazetteFanClub/>
<http://thefamilyceoblog.com/2011/08/what-ever-happened-to-amy-dacyczyn-of-the-tightwad-gazette/>
<http://www.context.org/iclib/ic26/dacyczyn/> They Call Me the Frugal Zealot - Context Institute
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP0YtfBRWPc&t=2s> Living Rich on A Poor Man's Salary (Part 8) - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUFyD-FTf-E> Forever Frugal – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSoq9q8znIc> Amy Dacyczyn – YouTube
<http://www.frugalupstate.com/frugal-living/interview-with-amy-dacyczyn-tv-thursday/>
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<https://transitiontales.wordpress.com/category/amy-dacyczyn/>
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<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-679-77766-3> Nonfiction Book Review
<http://earlyretirementextreme.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=2463>
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<http://www.thebudgetdiet.com/5-best-frugal-books-for-a-budget-diet>
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<https://www.amazon.com/Amy-Dacyczyn/e/B000APBDN8>
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[Images for Amy Dacyczyn, author](#)
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<https://www.pinterest.com/carmenroseshenk/tightwad-gazette/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/fragrantstar/amy-dacyczyn-frugal-zealot-tightwad-recipes/>
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http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/304665.The_Tightwad_Gazette_II
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/304663.The_Tightwad_Gazette_III
http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/19064.Best_Thrifty_Books_for_Frugal_Living

For much of my adult life - with the exception of those times when I was in the presence of back-to-the-landers and food cooperatives folk - I felt socially awkward for practicing frugality in an age of abundance. I wrote *The Earth Is Our Home* in 1992 to be found in Rural Ministry Resources of this website. See particularly Part I Homemaking and Part V Personal Action on Planet Earth. Following the economic downturn of 2008, it seems as if more people are rediscovering frugality. In fact, frugality may well be going mainstream, as Amazon employs frugality as one of its Leadership Principles.

14 leadership Principles from Amazon and How They Apply to Your Church - unSeminary

Embrace **Frugality** // Frugality breeds resourcefulness, self-sufficiency, and invention.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos's first desk was made of doors bought from Home Depot and bolted together. He still uses a "door desk" today ... and many of the conference rooms at **Amazon** have "door conference tables." Spend money where it makes an impact on your guests and cut back on everything else, so you can spend it on your guests. Your offices can be too nice. Your staff party can be too extravagant. Watch your spending and invest in what matters most.

<http://www.unseminary.com/14-leadership-principles-from-amazon-and-how-they-apply-to-your-church/>

[Images for Embrace Frugality](#)

<http://www.amazonianblog.com/2015/07/the-legend-of-the-amazon-door-desk.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Fitz-Kits-The-Door-Desk/dp/B0773C34D8>

[Images for watch your spending and invest in what matters most](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMPKHloyMXoNEQJgAxtfeGA> unSeminary - YouTube

Leadership Principles - Amazon.jobs

Frugality

Accomplish more with less. Constraints breed resourcefulness, self-sufficiency and invention. There are no extra points for growing headcount, budget size or fixed expense.

<https://www.amazon.jobs/principles>

[Images for Frugality Leadership Principle at Amazon](#)

[Images for accomplish more with less](#)

[Images for constraints breed resourcefulness](#)

Resources

A Frugal Embrace – Luther Seminary

For too long we've equated living better with owning lots of stuff, most of it bought on credit. We always realized that wasn't quite right, especially as we became a wealthier society. Now with the harsh economy, many people are struggling to **save more and borrow less**. But beneath those sensible actions lie a far bigger shift in everyday behavior and financial values.

<http://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/stewardship/conversations.aspx>

[Images for Frugal Embrace – Luther Seminary](#)

[Images for save more and borrow less](#)

Best Thrifty Books for Frugal Living (22 books) - Goodreads

This list is for the best books about being thrifty and living below your means. To paraphrase Amy Dacyzyn, Author of *The Tightwad Gazette*: There are two ways to have more money, make more or spend less. These books will help readers learn to do the latter by helping them establish better relationships with their finances as well as teaching them to think thrifty.

http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/19064.Best_Thrifty_Books_for_Frugal_Living

[Images for Best Thrifty Books for Frugal Living](#)

<http://www.thebudgetdiet.com/5-best-frugal-books-for-a-budget-diet>

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<https://www.joyfullythriving.com/frugal-books-to-help-save-money/>

Best 20+ Frugal living ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/frugal-living/>

[Images for frugal living on pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/conniesmith1/frugal-living/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/acultivatednest/living-frugally-money-saving-ideas/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/sassafrasna/frugal-living/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/frugal-living-tips/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/wporterouellet/frugal-living-is-fabulous/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/deb1108/frugal-lifestyle-how-to-manage-your-money/>
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<https://www.pinterest.com/redeemedgrace3/frugal-tips/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/frugal-tips/>
[Images for frugal tips on pinterest](#)

Cheap by Choice: When Frugality Means Freedom – The Organic Prepper

When you feel like you require less, then you are happy with less.

<http://www.theorganicprepper.ca/cheap-by-choice-when-frugality-means-freedom-04112013>
[Images for Cheap by Choice: When Frugality Means Freedom – The Organic Prepper](#)

Frugality Quotes - BrainyQuote

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[Images for frugality quotes](#)
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/frugality>
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<http://itsamoneything.com/money/frugality-quotes/#.WtSoGoiwaUk>
<http://www.best-money-saving-tips.com/frugal-living-tips/frugal-quotes/>
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<http://dumbestgeneration.com/personal-finance/live-frugally-collection-frugal-quotes/>
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<http://kingcashbags.com/frugality-quotes-best-frugality-quotes/>
<http://afrugaldesteny.com/35-money-frugal-quotes/>
www.alwaysfrugal.com/frugality.html
<http://www.stresslesscountry.com/frugal-living/>
www.allthingsfrugal.com/quotes.htm

Frugality - Wikipedia

Frugality is the quality of being frugal, sparing, thrifty, prudent or economical in the consumption of consumable resources such as food, time or money, and avoiding waste, lavishness or extravagance.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frugality>
<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Frugality>
[Images for frugality](#)

Frugalwoods - Financial independence and simple living

<http://www.frugalwoods.com/>
[Images for Frugalwoods - Financial independence and simple living](#)
<https://twitter.com/frugalwoods?lang=en>
<https://www.facebook.com/frugalwoods/>

How to Forget the Joneses and Embrace Frugality Instead

The first step in fighting the need to keep up with anyone else's spending is to simply put the focus back on you and your financial situation. Stop caring about what others are doing and create a list of priorities and goals for yourself.

<http://www.money-guy.com/2015/06/embrace-frugality/>
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<https://journal.practicelink.com/blog/forget-the-joneses-seven-reasons-to-go-frugal/>
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<https://www.pinterest.com/mommysavers/forget-the-joneses/>
<https://www.csmonitor.com/Business/The-Simple-Dollar/2013/0629/Forget-the-Joneses.-Keep-up-with-the-Smiths-their-frugal-neighbors.>
<http://www.thehappiesthome.com/3-ways-to-forget-about-the-joneses/>
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<https://www.wikihow.com/Stop-Keeping-up-With-the-Joneses>
<http://www.plantingdollars.com/personal-finance/stop-keeping-up-with-the-joneses/>
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<http://www.mypersonalfinancejourney.com/joneses-broke/>
[Images for "The Joneses" Are Broke](#)

Learn to Embrace a Frugal Lifestyle - Money in Your 20s

The key to [embracing a more frugal lifestyle](#) is recognizing the areas where you may need to cut back and choosing the areas where you feel that you have earned the right to splurge a little bit more within reason. A frugal person recognizes that no

matter how much she wants a certain item, if she can't pay cash for it, then she can't have it. She also looks ahead to see if this particular purchase is going to make it difficult to purchase groceries at the end of the month.

<http://moneyfor20s.about.com/od/financialrules/a/Learn-To-Embrace-A-Frugal-Lifestyle.htm>

[Images for Embrace a Frugal Lifestyle](#)

Moritz Böhlinger doesn't have a car, walks to practice – profootballtalk.com

So many NFL players blow their signing bonuses that it's hard not to commend Böhlinger for choosing to be so **frugal**.

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2016/08/04/moritz-bohringer-doesnt-have-a-car-walks-to-practice/>

[Images for Moritz Böhlinger doesn't have a car, walks to practice – profootballtalk.com](#)

[Images for Moritz Böhlinger choosing to be frugal](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBVacifqnho&feature=youtu.be> Touching Down - Episode 1: Just Landed w/ Moritz Boehringer

<http://www.munknee.com/78-of-nfl-players-go-bankrupt-within-5-years/>

The New Frugality: How to Consume Less, Save More, and Live Better [Chris Farrell]

The 2008 crash brought high-flying, free-spending, debt-amassing Americans back to earth with a thud. But as trusted finance reporter Chris Farrell explains, there's a silver lining to this cloud: It is accelerating a trend already under way in America toward what he calls the *New Frugality* - a fresh way of thinking about how, what, and why we consume.

In this down-to-earth, approachable book, Farrell explains both the theory and the practice of living frugally. The good news is a frugal lifestyle isn't about penny-pinching: It's about wasting less and getting more from each day and each dollar. Chris Farrell is a regular contributor to *Bloomberg Business Week* and the resident personal finance expert and economics editor for American Public Media's *Marketplace Money*. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-New-Frugality-Consume-Better/dp/B005OL852K>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7035113-the-new-frugality>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/new-frugality-chris-farrell/1100399798>

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<http://americanpublicmedia.publicradio.org/support/shop/new-frugality/>

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<http://www.wisebread.com/the-new-frugality-consume-less-save-more-live-better>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/book-review-the-new-frugality-2011-5>

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<https://www.thesimpledollar.com/review-the-new-frugality/>

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http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/local/q-a-marketplace-money-s-chris-farrell-on-the-new/article_dd56dfd3-4c71-5614-8fd2-2efb2262c0ef.html

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4335>

<https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/stewardship/Farrell2012.pdf>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJaluF7h_ec Being Frugal: The Original Sustainability? - Chris Farrell - YouTube

http://library.fora.tv/2010/01/21/Chris_Farrell_The_New_Frugality

<http://www.chrisfarrellblog.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Chris-Farrell/e/B001HMRRYW>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/374831.Chris_Farrell

[Images for Chris Farrell, author the new frugality](#)

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31 best Money & Frugality Quotes images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/frugalitymag/money-frugality-quotes/>

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[Images for christian-living/the-heart-of-frugality](http://www.challies.com/christian-living/the-heart-of-frugality)

11) Minimalism for otherwise living life to the maximum

The philosophy of minimalism goes beyond living with a minimum of goods. Today, there are blogs, websites, documentaries, and publications extolling minimalism as a way of life.

Resources

Best 25+ Minimalist lifestyle ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/minimalist-lifestyle/>
[Images for Minimalist lifestyle on Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/explore/minimalist-lifestyle/)
<https://www.pinterest.com/sonyelectronics/minimalist-lifestyle/>
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https://www.pinterest.ca/nadiaham_ph/minimalism/
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[Images for pinterest/intentional-living-minimalism-voluntary-simplicity](https://www.pinterest.com/susanmcgarvey/intentional-living-minimalism-voluntary-simplicity/)

Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World by Cal Newport

Minimalism is the art of knowing how much is just enough. Digital minimalism applies this idea to our personal technology. It's the key to living a focused life in an increasingly noisy world.

In this timely and enlightening book, the bestselling author of Deep Work introduces a philosophy for technology use that has already improved countless lives.

Digital minimalists are all around us. They're the calm, happy people who can hold long conversations without furtive glances at their phones. They can get lost in a good book, a woodworking project, or a leisurely morning run. They can have fun with friends and family without the obsessive urge to document the experience. They stay informed about the news of the day, but don't feel overwhelmed by it. They don't experience "fear of missing out" because they already know which activities provide them meaning and satisfaction.

Now, Newport gives us a name for this quiet movement, and makes a persuasive case for its urgency in our tech-saturated world. Common sense tips, like turning off notifications, or occasional rituals like observing a digital sabbath, don't go far enough in helping us take back control of our technological lives, and attempts to unplug completely are complicated by the demands of family, friends and work. What we need instead is a thoughtful method to decide what tools to use, for what purposes, and under what conditions.

Drawing on a diverse array of real-life examples, from Amish farmers to harried parents to Silicon Valley programmers, Newport identifies the common practices of digital minimalists and the ideas that underpin them. He shows how digital minimalists are rethinking their relationship to social media, rediscovering the pleasures of the offline world, and reconnecting with their inner selves through regular periods of solitude. He then shares strategies for integrating these practices into your life, starting with a thirty-day "digital declutter" process that has already helped thousands feel less overwhelmed and more in control.

Technology is intrinsically neither good nor bad. The key is using it to support your goals and values, rather than letting it use you. This book shows the way.

<https://www.amazon.com/Digital-Minimalism-Choosing-Focused-Noisy/dp/0525536515>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40672036-digital-minimalism>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/digital-minimalism-cal-newport/1129616011>
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJ0MV3ixnOM> Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World, with Professor Cal Newport – YouTube
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF6lxNQgdgA> A Guide to Digital Minimalism – YouTube
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https://www.goodreads.com/author_blog_posts/14412635-on-digital-minimalism
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y75WVFvZgY> 441: On Digital Minimalism by Cal Newport of the Study Hacks Blog (Being a Minimalist) – YouTube
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cal_Newport
<https://www.amazon.com/Cal-Newport/e/B001IGNR0U>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/147891.Cal_Newport
[Images for Cal Newport](#)
[Images for Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World by Cal Newport](#)

How To Live A More Minimalistic Lifestyle | Simple Living

To make a conscious choice to live a more minimalist lifestyle is to choose a certain mind state; one that puts less emphasis on objects and materials, and more on simplicity and harmony.

<http://simpleorganizedlife.com/how-to-live-a-more-minimalistic-lifestyle/>

[Images for Live A More Minimalistic Lifestyle | Simple Living](#)

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Minimalism - Wikipedia

Literary minimalism

Literary minimalism is characterized by an economy with words and a focus on surface description. Minimalist writers eschew adverbs and prefer allowing context to dictate meaning. Readers are expected to take an active role in creating the story, to "choose sides" based on oblique hints and innuendo, rather than react to directions from the writer.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimalism>

<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Minimalism>

[Images for minimalism](#)

The Minimalists

Joshua Fields Millburn & Ryan Nicodemus help over 20 million people live meaningful lives with less through their website, books, podcast, and documentary. The Minimalists have been featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, Forbes, TIME, ABC, CBS, NBC, BBC, CBC, and NPR.

<http://www.theminimalists.com/>

<http://www.theminimalists.com/minimalism/>

<http://www.theminimalists.com/netflix/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkbFiBwMYMXAqifXF4xo5Uw> The Minimalists - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Co1lptd4p4> Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things (Official Trailer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgBpyNsS-jU> A rich life with less stuff | The Minimalists | TEDxWhitefish – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JpgzK2yxzk> Minimalism: Living A Richer Life With Less feat. The Minimalist - YouTube

<https://www.netflix.com/title/80114460> Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things

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What Does the Bible Say About Minimalism? | Stewardship.com

minimalism is not Christianity. You can follow Jesus and still own some nice stuff. But the ideas behind minimalism are helpful for reexamining where your heart is when it comes to that stuff.

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www.bibleinterp.com/articles/Minimalism.shtml

<http://www.charlesspecht.com/jesus-christ-the-minimalist/>

<http://simpleandsoul.com/soul-minimalism/> 27 Bible Verses for Living Simply and Abundantly • Simple & Soul

<http://alliecasazza.com/blog/how-living-with-less-is-being-faithful> How Minimalism is Biblical — Allie Casazza

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2015/june/can-we-declutter-our-way-to-christ.html> On the minimalism trend and the allure of living with less.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOFHq8YUthU> Minimalism and The Bible - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhHYO748PN4> Beyond The Message: Minimalism and the Bible - YouTube

What is Minimalism & How It Can Change Your Life - YouTube

What is minimalism? In this video we're digging into what it means to be a minimalist, how can it change your life, and how it has allowed many people we've met to out of debt, or travel long term, or explore alternative lifestyles like tiny house living, van life, and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XqhR8cY4Bw>

[Images for minimalism youtube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykJBqNb9T-o> 5 THINGS YOU DON'T NEED | minimalism - YouTube

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUMYQn-gCIA> Our Extreme Downsizing Experience - Minimalist Living - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0kg33t346s> Minimalism & Sustainability | Living Simpler & Greener - YouTube

<https://theblissfulmind.com/2015/10/05/minimalist-youtube-channels/> 12 YouTube Channels All Minimalists Will Love

www.lessoftheexcess.com/minimalism-youtube-channels/ Minimalism YouTube Channels! - #lessoftheexcess

<https://d360.dondup.com/en/the-best-minimalist-youtube-channels-to-follow-this-year/> The Best Minimalist Youtube Channels to Follow this Year | D360

<http://plantbasedbride.com/blog/minimalistyoutube> 6 Best Minimalist YouTube Channels — Plant Based Bride

<http://frugaling.org/8-ted-talks-will-inspire-become-minimalist/> 8 TED Talks That Will Inspire You To Become A Minimalist

<http://mbasahm.com/documentaries-that-inspire-minimalism/> 5 Documentaries that Will Inspire Minimalism - MBA sahm

12) What happens if there is an economic downturn even more severe than 2008?

Imagine if the Sovereign Debt Crisis reaches a tipping point and the inevitable cannot be postponed.

Resources

Best 25+ National debt graph ideas on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/national-debt-graph/>

[Images for national debt pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.dk/pin/11047961562657800/>

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<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/367465650846793324/> Discover ideas about National Debt Graph

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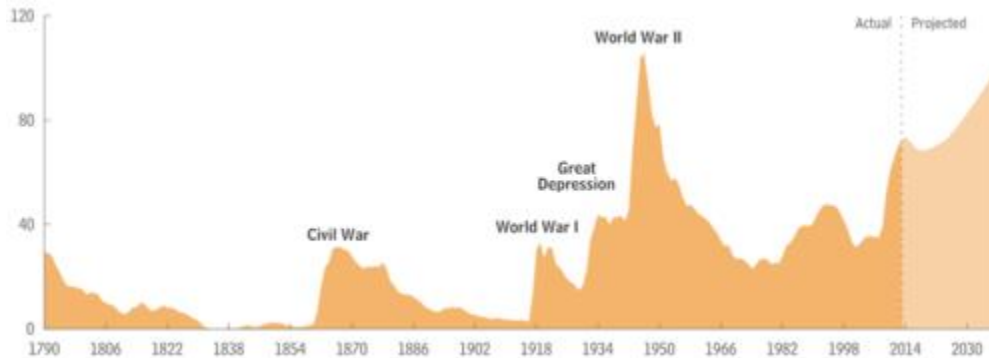
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History of the United States public debt - Wikipedia

Public debt rose sharply in the wake of the 2007–08 financial crisis and resulting significant tax revenue declines and spending increases.



Federal debt held by the public as a percentage of gross domestic product, from 1790 to 2013, projected to 2038.

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National Debt – Just Facts

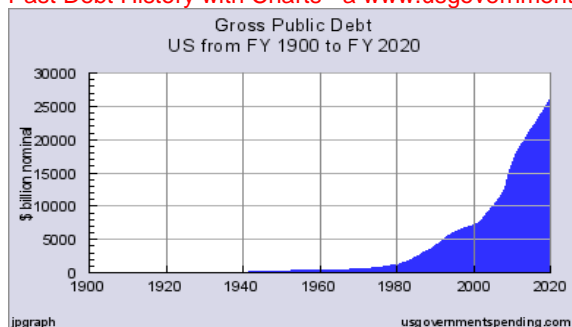
* As of April 7, 2020, the U.S. Treasury's official figure for the debt of the United States government is \$24.0 trillion—or more precisely—\$24,011,523,316,653.[1] This amounts to:

- \$72,882 for every person living in the U.S.[2]
- \$186,745 for every household in the U.S.[3]
- 111% of the U.S. economy.[4]
- 6.6 times annual federal revenues.[5]
- 49% more than the combined consumer debt of every household in the U.S.[6]

* At the close of 2019, the size of the official national debt relative to the U.S. economy was 3.6 times higher than its average over U.S. history:

<http://www.justfacts.com/nationaldebt.asp>

Past Debt History with Charts - a www.usgovernmentdebt.us



http://www.usgovernmentdebt.us/debt_deficit_history

[Images for us government debt](#)

The Record Surge In Our National Debt Is An Urgent Wake-Up Call for American Families - Forbes

With little notice, our national debt recently surged to a historic record – an eye-popping 20 trillion dollars. Yet chances are few Americans noticed. Most of us went about our business, unaware of this unprecedented economic time bomb that has put our children's future, and their children's future, at greater risk. It needs to be a wake-up call for Americans.

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[Images for The Record Surge In Our National Debt Is An Urgent Wake-Up Call for American Families - Forbes](http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikepatton/2015/04/24/national-debt-tops-18-trillion-guess-how-much-you-owe/2/#713b80a698ef)

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[Images for Most Americans Now Receive Government Benefits](#)

United States federal budget - Wikipedia

The United States federal budget comprises the spending and **revenues** of the **U.S. federal government**. The budget is the financial representation of the priorities of the government, reflecting historical debates and competing economic philosophies. The government primarily spends on healthcare, retirement, and defense programs. The non-partisan **Congressional Budget Office** provides extensive analysis of the budget and its economic effects. It has reported that large budget deficits over the next 30 years are projected to drive federal debt held by the public to unprecedented levels—from 78 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 to 144 percent by 2049.^[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_federal_budget

[Images for United States federal budget](#)

U.S. National Debt Clock : Real Time

<http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

[Images for U.S. National Debt](#)

What is Sovereign Debt Crisis? - YouTube

Sovereign debt refers to bonds issued by a national government in a foreign currency, in order to finance the issuing country's growth. Currently, the whole world has US\$500 TRILLION of government debt while the global GDP is only US\$75 trillion, thus the global Debt-to- GDP is more than 600%. This means that every working man and woman in this world today will have to fork out 100% of their income for the next 6 years to pay off the debt, which is simply unsustainable!

The Sovereign Debt Crisis (SDC) is inevitable because of the collapse in CONFIDENCE in the government. Right now, we are witnessing SDC imploding in Europe, which will next spread to Japan and ultimately hit U.S. in 2017-2018.

History repeats and now is almost an exact replay of the 1929-1939 Great Depression in many aspects. During the Great Depression, we saw all of 17 European countries went bankrupt. As a result, capital will flow into the U.S. stock market pushing Dow up 382%. US\$ and commodities soared as well even though unemployment then was at 25% and the economy was continuing to sink.

This time around, it is going to be many times worse than that because it is NOT just Europe that is going bankrupt, Japan and U.S. will be going bankrupt as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFjCKdWru-k>

[Images for What is Sovereign Debt Crisis?](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ln6VGCB8f_c US Debt Crisis 2018 - Perfectly Explained - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZiodZHZGpU> America's Debt Crisis Explained - YouTube

[Images for America's Debt Crisis](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r721PuDF8VA> Sovereign Debt: A Modern Greek Tragedy - YouTube

[Images for Sovereign Debt: A Modern Greek Tragedy](#)

Federal governments seemingly borrow and print money with no intent to repay. A review of history indicates that empires fall when overwhelmed by debt. The present system is not sustainable.

Resources

Sovereign Debt Crisis | Armstrong Economics

<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/sovereign-debt-crisis/>

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[Images for Sovereign Debt Crisis | Armstrong Economics](#)

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<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/qa/is-there-something-more-important-than-money/>

Debt Forgiveness – The Seventh Year | Armstrong Economics

Posted on [February 6, 2015](#) by [Martin Armstrong](#)

Then when it comes to the problem we have with perpetual debts of nations, we find interesting advice. “*At the end of every seven years you shall grant a remission of debts.*” Deuteronomy 15:1, which is the manner of remission where every creditor shall release what he has loaned to his neighbor. **This is the debt forgiveness directive every 7 years. It would seem that the way governments function violates this very ancient principle.**

<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/uncategorized/debt-forgiveness-the-seventh-year/>

[Images for Debt Forgiveness – The Seventh Year | Armstrong Economics](#)

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[PDF] The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival by Sir John Bagot Glubb

XXVIII The welfare state

The impression that it will always be automatically rich causes the declining empire to spend lavishly on its own benevolence, until such time, as the economy collapses, the universities are closed, and the hospitals fall into ruin. It may perhaps be **incorrect to picture the welfare state as the high-water mark of human attainment. It may merely prove to be one more regular milestone in the life story of an aging and decrepit empire.**

Page 18

<http://people.uncw.edu/kozloffm/glubb.pdf>

<http://www.rexresearch.com/glubb/glubb-empire.pdf>

[Images for Sir John Bagot Glubb fate of empires](#)

Over promising, under funding, and raising taxes, as well as perpetual borrowing with no intent to repay becomes a prescription for economic collapse. Governments and citizens need to live within their means if there is any hope moving forward.

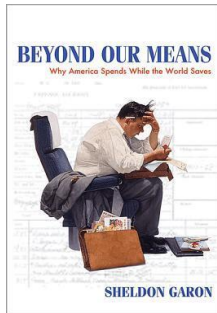
Resources

Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Save by Sheldon Garon (Author)

If the financial crisis has taught us anything, it is that Americans save too little, spend too much, and borrow excessively. What can we learn from East Asian and European countries that have fostered enduring cultures of thrift over the past two centuries? *Beyond Our Means* tells for the first time how other nations aggressively encouraged their citizens to save by means of special savings institutions and savings campaigns. The U.S. government, meanwhile, promoted mass consumption and reliance on credit, culminating in the global financial meltdown.

Many economists believe people save according to universally rational calculations, saving the most in their middle years as they plan for retirement, and saving the least in welfare states. In reality, Europeans save at high rates despite generous welfare programs and aging populations. Americans save little, despite weaker social safety nets and a younger population. Tracing the development of such behaviors across three continents from the nineteenth century to today, this book highlights the role of institutions and moral suasion in shaping habits of saving and spending. It shows how the encouragement of thrift was not a relic of indigenous traditions but a modern movement to confront rising consumption. Around the world, messages to save and spend wisely confronted citizens everywhere--in schools, magazines, and novels. At the same time, in America, businesses and government normalized practices of living beyond one's means.

Transnational history at its most compelling, *Beyond Our Means* reveals why some nations save so much and others so little.



<https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Our-Means-America-Spends/dp/0691159580>

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<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9512.html>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0691135991>

[Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15a5V5gvkws> Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves - YouTube

<http://ahr.oxfordjournals.org/content/118/3/811.extract>

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/modern/beyond-our-means-why-america-spends-while-the-world-saves/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15a5V5gvkws> Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves - YouTube

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<https://ritholtz.com/2012/09/why-america-spends-while-the-world-saves-beyond-our-means/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2011/10/a-how-not-to-on-debt/426405/>

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<https://www.amazon.com/Sheldon-M.-Garon/e/B001HPJH7Y>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/69200.Sheldon_Garon

[Images for Sheldon Garon \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Save by Sheldon Garon \(Author\)](#)

Can America Afford Its Debt? by James Grant | Time.com

The public debt will fall due someday. (Some of it falls due just about every day.) It will have to be repaid or refinanced. If repaid, where would the money come from? It would come from you, naturally. The debt is ultimately a deferred tax. You can calculate your pro rata obligation on your smartphone. Just visit the Treasury website, which posts the debt to the penny, then the Census Bureau's website, which reports the up-to-the-minute size of the population. Divide the latter by the former and you have the scary truth: \$42,998.12 for every man, woman and child, as I write this.

<http://time.com/4293549/james-grant-united-states-debt/>

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2016/04/15/Debt-Hits-19-Trillion-Has-US-Reached-Tipping-Point>

<http://time.com/author/james-grant/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Grant_\(finance\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Grant_(finance))

<http://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/James-Grant/44054461>

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https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/9796500.James_Grant

[Images for James Grant, american debt author](#)

[Images for Can America Afford Its Debt?](#)

The United States of Insolvency | TIME

We owe more than we can easily repay. We spend too much and borrow too much. Worse, we promise too much. We conjure dollar bills by the trillions—pull them right out of thin air. I won't insist that this can't go on, because it has. I only say that it will eventually stop.

I don't know the date, but I believe that I know the reason. It will stop when the world loses confidence in the dollars we owe.

Come that moment of truth, the nation will resemble Chicago, a once prosperous polity now trying to persuade its once trusting creditors that it is actually solvent.

<http://time.com/4293549/james-grant-united-states-debt/>

<http://time.com/4293549/james-grant-united-states-debt/?xid=homepage&pcd=hp-magmod>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4ap_WUq_d4 James Grant: The United States of Insolvency - YouTube
<https://mises.org/library/james-grant-united-states-insolvency>
[Images for United States of Insolvency](#)

Even if the dystopian predictions of crash and burn are wrong, I suggest that the arc of ever-increasing expectations from one generation to the next is over. The bourgeois attitude so typical of commencement addresses, "You can achieve anything you put your mind to!" is no longer kosher.

Resources

Are Millennials the Screwed Generation? - Newsweek

Once known for their optimism, many millennials are turning sour about the future. According to a Rutgers study, 56 percent of recent high-school graduates feel they would not be financially more successful than their parents; only 14 percent thought they'd do better. College education doesn't seem to make a difference: 58 percent of recent graduates feel they won't do as well as the previous generation. Only 16 percent thought they'd do better.

This perception builds on the growing notion among economists that the new generation must lower its expectations. Since the financial panic of 2008, "the new normal" has become conventional wisdom. Coined by Mohamed El-Erian at Pimco, it's been used to describe our world as one "of muted Western growth, high unemployment and relatively orderly de-levering."

The libertarian Tyler Cowen, in his landmark work *The Great Stagnation*, makes many of the same points, claiming that the U.S. "frontier" has closed both technologically and in terms of human capital and resources. He maintains that we've already harvested "the low-hanging fruit" and that we now rest on a "technological plateau," making any future economic progress difficult to achieve. Stagnation is not such a bad thing for people already established in college-campus jobs, think tanks, or powerful financial institutions. But it wipes out the hope for the new generation that they can achieve anything resembling the American Dream of their parents or even grandparents.

<http://www.newsweek.com/are-millennials-screwed-generation-65523>
[Images for Are Millennials the Screwed Generation?](#)

It's Official: The Boomerang Kids Won't Leave - NYTimes.com

For most of American history, it was natural for each generation to become richer than the previous one. Now that's no longer true.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/22/magazine/its-official-the-boomerang-kids-wont-leave.html?_r=0
[Images for Boomerang Kids Won't Leave](#)

Millennials think they have it bad? Generation X has it worse

The members of Generation X have plenty to be grumpy about. For starters, no one talks about them anymore. It's all millennials all the time. There's another reason Americans born between 1965 and 1980 are gloomy: Gen Xers are in even worse shape financially than the baby boomers who preceded them or the millennials who followed.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2015/06/10/millennials-think-they-have-bad-generation-has-worse/3vhfpB2PCGOSHD2mEX1AwM/story.html>

The Future Is Almost Now by Elizabeth Alsop - The Atlantic

Yet these films are hardly cautionary tales; if anything, they're dispassionate about humanity's demise, which they treat as a mostly foregone conclusion.



<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/05/the-future-is-almost-now/482718/>
[Images for The Future Is Almost Now by Elizabeth Alsop - The Atlantic](#)
<http://www.theatlantic.com/author/elizabeth-alsop/>
<https://commons.gc.cuny.edu/members/ealsop/>

The Mad As Hell Generation: 20 Reasons Why Millions of Americans under the Age of 30 Are Giving Up On the U.S. Economy

Americans under the age of 30 don't want to hear that they are not going to be able to do better than their parents. They don't want to hear that they are going to have to "pay the price" because of the mistakes of previous generations. They don't want to hear that the "good jobs" that have been held out as a "carrot" for them all these years have disappeared and are not coming back.

Millions of young Americans want what was promised to them. They want good jobs that will enable them to enjoy the "American Dream". They want things to go back to the way that things used to work in America.

If you spend much time around those in their twenties, you know that many of them have a look of hopelessness in their eyes. Large numbers of them have moved back in with their parents. Large numbers of them are flipping burgers or working retail jobs part-time because that is all they can find. There are even a growing number of them that have given up entirely and have completely checked out.

So, are we in the process of creating a "lost generation"?

<http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/the-mad-as-hell-generation-20-reasons-why-millions-of-americans-under-the-age-of-30-are-giving-up-on-the-u-s-economy>
<http://chat.anncoulter.com/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?t=111075&p=2500043>
[Images for Giving Up On the U.S. Economy](#)

The Tipping Point: Most Americans No Longer Are Middle Class - NPR

A just-released analysis of government data shows that as of 2015, middle-income households have become the minority. The trend is so firmly established that it may well continue; Americans have experienced "a demographic shift that could signal a tipping point," Pew researchers concluded Wednesday.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/12/09/459087477/the-tipping-point-most-americans-no-longer-are-middle-class>

[Images for The Tipping Point: Most Americans No Longer Are Middle Class - NPR](#)

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<https://www.cnbc.com/2015/12/10/middle-class-americans-no-longer-majority.html>

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/most-americans-arent-middle-class-anymore/>

<https://www.mutualfundobserver.com/discuss/discussion/24719/the-tipping-point-most-americans-no-longer-are-middle-class>

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<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/5-charts-which-show-what-is-happening-to-the-middle-class-around-the-world/>

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https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/middle-class-not-majority_us_5668b75be4b0f290e521f31e

<https://www.cbsnews.com/media/5-signs-youre-no-longer-middle-class/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loaA7iUow2E> Middle Class Americans No Longer Majority - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJLVoPhjv4> Diane Sawyer Looks Into America's Shrinking Middle Class - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUnguEjTPDY> The Rise and Fall of the American Middle Class - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufoxQwPP1Y> How America Is Killing The Middle Class - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9z2bW6-nmkw> The shrinking middle class - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPnxOOeY1Kg> How the upper middle class keeps everyone else out - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftCCQjIH8fA> The Death Of The American Middle Class - YouTube

[Images for Death Of The American Middle Class - YouTube](#)

The Unluckiest Generation: What Will Become of Millennials?

Generation Y is the most educated in American history, but its education came at a price. Average debt for graduates of public universities doubled between 1996 and 2006. Students chose to take it on because they expected to find a job that paid it off; instead, they found themselves stranded in the worst economy in 80 years. Young people who skipped college altogether have faced something worse: depressed wages in a global economy that finds it easier than ever to replace jobs with technology or to move them overseas.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/04/the-unluckiest-generation-what-will-become-of-millennials/275336/>

[Images for Unluckiest Generation: What Will Become of Millennials?](#)

<https://marketrealist.com/2016/03/millennials-often-called-unluckiest-generation>

<https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-11-14/why-credit-suisse-thinks-millennials-are-unluckiest-generation>

<https://www.independent.ie/business/world/debt-stress-uncertainty-is-genx-the-unluckiest-generation-ever-30353603.html>

What Young People Think About their Future – In the West vs. Developing Nations

Why are Millennials such downers? Well, for one, the global economic slump that began in 2007 has hit them so hard that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (which tracks 33 mainly developed countries) [reports](#) that young people and children replaced the elderly as the group at highest risk of income poverty. Average relative income poverty rose from 1.6% to 13.8% among youth between 2007-10, falling from 15.1% to 12.5% in the elderly. The *Guardian* [reported in March](#) that just under half of Europe's 37 million under-30 adults still live with their parents. In America, that situation [isn't quite as bad](#), with 29% of those under 35 living at home. But their job opportunities are rapidly disappearing. Pew found that today's Americans, when lucky enough to find a job at all, are largely getting [pretty crappy ones](#):

<http://mic.com/articles/87691/what-young-people-think-about-their-future-in-the-west-vs-developing-nations>

[Images for What Young People Think About their Future – In the West vs. Developing Nations](#)

After the economic downturn of 2008, many people seem to be more open to looking candidly at the state of the economy. I am not suggesting Mad Max or Hunger Game Scenarios, but I suggest it will be a test of "In God We Trust."

Resources

[Mad Max - Wikipedia](#)

Plot

In a **dystopian** future Australia, **law and order** has begun to break down following a major **energy crisis**. Most of the Outback has been reduced to low-populated communities with low fuel and a relatively peaceful life, with major **metropolitan** cities still continuing to exist. However, motorcycle gangs scavenge the lands and terrorize the population. As such, **Main Force Patrol**, an out-run police force, has been created to patrol the lands to uphold the remains of law and justice.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mad_Max
[Images for mad max](#)

Maxed Out directed by James Scurlock – Nothing's Priceless – Luther Seminary

A movie about the national and personal debt crisis.

"At times hilarious, at times deeply disturbing, Maxed Out forces us to face the consequences of our national debt addiction: the suicides, the ruined lives and, ultimately, the disappearance of the American middle class."

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4064>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb1MGccPtUs> Maxed Out – Trailer - YouTube

The Hunger Games - Wikipedia

Years before the start of the series, the thirteen districts attempted to start a **revolution** against the Capitol. The Capitol won, District 13 was destroyed and, as punishment, an annual televised death match called **The Hunger Games** was created by the Capitol. Two participants, one male and one female, known as tributes, between the ages of 12 and 18 are chosen randomly in a "reaping" from each district. Children may volunteer as a tribute instead of selection by ballot. They are taken to an arena and fight until only one is left alive.^[8]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hunger_Games
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hunger_Games_%28film%29
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hunger_Games_trilogy
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hunger_Games_%28novel%29
http://thehungergames.wikia.com/wiki/The_Hunger_Games_Wiki
http://thehungergames.wikia.com/wiki/The_Hunger_Games_%28film%29
[Images for the hunger games](#)

Interestingly, I recall an anecdote from a conversation related to me between a member of the visiting choir from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and a member of a congregation in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA. The latter asked a well-meaning question, "How can you keep the faith amidst so much *poverty*?" to which the choir member from Malawi is supposed to have responded, "How can you keep the faith amidst so much *prosperity*?"

Resources

A Warning Not to Forget God in Prosperity

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors.²Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments.³He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.⁴The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years.⁵Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the LORD your God disciplines you.⁶Therefore keep the commandments of the LORD your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him.⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills,⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey,⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today.¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them,¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied,¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous¹⁶ snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock,¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.¹⁷Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.'¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.¹⁹If you do forget the LORD your God and follow other gods to serve and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.²⁰Like the nations that the LORD is destroying before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

oremus Bible Browser: Deuteronomy 8

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Deuteronomy+8>
[Images for Warning Not to Forget God in Prosperity](#)

Economic Disruption and an Evolving Church | The Lutheran

Hard times pull to front new ways to consider church's work

The spiraling effect of the Great Recession and its fallout is clearly illustrated in my study: less offerings given locally, less ability to increase or maintain percentages of mission support, and less mission supported in the ways to which we have

become accustomed through dollars and expertise at congregational, synodical and national levels.

It doesn't take an economic genius to see how the [ELCA](#) as an interdependent organism has been impacted by the ripples and whirlpools of economic downturn.

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=10422

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[Images for Economic Disruption and an Evolving Church | The Lutheran](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

Faith during economic strife | The Lutheran

A crisis & faith

Unemployment ... investment loss ... home foreclosures ... bailouts ... recession

Jon N. Keiser has seen some tough times. "But I haven't seen it as bad as this on such a grand scale," said the pastor of [Lutheran Church of Our Saviour](#), Tampa, Fla. "It's an atmosphere of gloom and doom. People are nervous about what is going to happen tomorrow."

The global economic crisis has taken a toll on the Tampa area — and members of [Our Saviour](#). Some have lost jobs and homes. Contributions to the congregation have declined a few percentage points from last year. Staff members have not had raises in the last two years. The congregation's community-supported food bank has seen a 20 percent increase, serving 1,062 individuals in October 2008, compared to 884 in October 2007.

With these challenges, outreach "takes on a deeper meaning," Keiser said. The 556-member congregation has offered a service of hope and a series of workshops on resume writing, credit counseling and home foreclosures. On its electronic message board, the church recently displayed [John 14:18](#) — I will not leave you desolate.

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=161>

[Images for Faith during economic strife | The Lutheran](#)

Good Stewardship -- Trusting God in Hard Times - Sharefaith

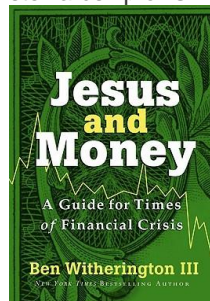
Trusting God in hard times necessitates good stewardship. Affluence can give rise to laziness and financial carelessness, which may make it challenging initially when it's suddenly time to tighten the belt. Poverty can induce people to be greedy and stingy, and even to steal, and hard times can fuel that wrong thinking. Whatever background someone may be struggling with, Biblical principles can be learned and Christians can discover how to prosper and flourish in hard times.

<http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/christian-principles/faith/good-stewardship-in-hard-times.html>

[Images for Good Stewardship -- Trusting God in Hard Times - Sharefaith](#)

Jesus and Money: A Guide for Times of Financial Crisis [Ben III Witherington]

In the wake of a sobering global recession, many Christians realize they need to rethink their approach to money. Here respected New Testament scholar Ben Witherington III explores what the Bible does--and *doesn't*--say about money. Now in paperback, this book clearly and concisely examines what Jesus and his earliest followers taught about wealth and poverty, money and debt, and tithing and sacrificial giving to help readers understand the proper role of money in modern Christian life. Along the way, he critiques the faith-promise and health-and-wealth approaches to these issues, showing what good stewardship of God's possessions really looks like.



<http://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Money-Guide-Financial-Crisis/dp/1587433192>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7452957-jesus-and-money>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/jesus-and-money-ben-iii-witherington/1116961816>

www.marketsandmorality.com/index.php/mandm/article/download/.../88

https://books.google.com/books/about/Jesus_and_Money.html?id=WePxiFemSWkC

http://barnabasfoundation.com/churches/resources/jesus-and-money-a-guide-for-times-of-financial-crisis/#.VtbjB_krKUk

<http://www.wordandspirit.co.uk/blog/2012/06/17/book-review-jesus-and-money-ben-witherington-iii/>

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-58743-274-3> Jesus and Money: A Guide for Times of Financial Crisis

<http://www.benwitherington.com/>

<http://asburyseminary.edu/person/dr-ben-witherington-iii/>

<http://www.seedbed.com/why-im-not-a-calvinist-ben-witherington/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Witherington_III

<https://www.amazon.com/Ben-Witherington/e/B000AP60HW>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/159001.Ben_Witherington_III

[Images for Ben III Witherington, author](#)

[Images for Jesus and Money: A Guide for Times of Financial Crisis \[Ben III Witherington\]](#)

Jubilee (biblical) - Wikipedia

The Jubilee (Hebrew *yovel*/יובל) year is the year at the end of seven cycles of *shmita* (Sabbatical years), and according to [Biblical](#) regulations had a special impact on the ownership and management of land in the [Land of Israel](#); there is some debate whether it was the 49th year (the last year of seven sabbatical cycles, referred to as the Sabbath's Sabbath), or whether it was the following (50th) year. Jubilee deals largely with land, property, and property rights. According to Leviticus, slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest. Leviticus 25:8-13 states:

"And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed. For it is the jubilee; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. In the year of this jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession."

The biblical rules concerning Sabbatical years (*shmita*) are still observed by many religious [Jews](#) in the [State of Israel](#), but the regulations for the Jubilee year have not been observed for many centuries. According to the Torah, observance of [Jubilee](#) only applies when the Jewish people live in the land of Israel according to their tribes. Thus, with the exile of the tribes of [Reuben](#), [Gad](#), and [Menashe](#) (about 600 BCE) Jubilee has not been applicable.^[1]



Israeli stamp commemorating the Jewish National Fund and quoting [Leviticus 25:23](#): "The land must not be sold permanently..."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jubilee_%28biblical%29

[Images for Jubilee \(biblical\)](#)

Preaching in Times of Economic Crisis by Center for Stewardship – Luther Seminary

The author gives five concrete messages for preachers to consider when preaching in times of crisis.

1. The primary word from the pulpit during any time of crisis is a word of comfort and promise.
2. At the same time, the preacher must be aware that many hearers are, indeed, disoriented, searching, and re-evaluating priorities in light of the current crisis.
3. There is also need and opportunity to turn our attention to the good of our neighbor.
4. The primary task of preaching is to call people to faith by announcing to them the steadfast promise of the God we see most clearly in Christ.
5. Perhaps the single most important thing any of us preachers can do to increase the effectiveness of our preaching is to get out of the church and visit our people where they spend their time – in their homes, the places they volunteer and recreate, and where they go to school and work.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4171>

[Images for Preaching in Times of Economic Crisis by Center for Stewardship – Luther Seminary](#)

[PDF] Reflections and Resources for the Journey – Kairos and Associates

Below, we share a few of the big ideas heard round the conference. They're a great way to spark conversations that help us overcome culture and **tough economic times** to a joyful new reality.

<http://www.kairosandassociates.com/uploads/pdf/Kairos-Moments.pdf>

[Images for tough economic times](#)

Resilience in the Recession: Economic Impact Study Highlights Congregational Strengths – Alban Institute

"While the media has frequently focused on the recession's impact on megachurches like Saddleback and larger churches like the National Cathedral, there is a silence that has wrapped itself around the experience of smaller and medium-sized churches," said William G. Enright, executive director of the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving. "I think this report with a broader brush describes the impact of the economy on these churches and paints a more realistic picture of how the nation's churches are being affected."

<https://alban.org/archive/resilience-in-the-recession-economic-impact-study-highlights-congregational-strengths/>

[Images for Resilience in the Recession: Economic Impact Study Highlights Congregational Strengths – Alban Institute](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/resilient-congregations/>

[Images for resilient congregations](#)

<https://alban.org/category/money-finance/>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/alban-weekly/>

<https://alban.org/books/>

<https://alban.org/author/nekduke-edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/albaninstitute/>

<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/congregations-magazine/>

Serving Two Masters

²⁴“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and wealth.**”

oremus Bible Browser: Matthew 6:24

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=165321517>

[Images for Serving Two Masters](#)

stewardship in hard times - Leader Resources

WHAT'S A CHURCH TO DO? Churches primarily responded to the financial decline in one of three ways: 1. Reduce spending (21%) – cutting budgets, looking for bargains, asking vendors for a reduction in their charges (when I did this in a parish all but one vendor gave us a discount of 5-10% of both one-time purchases and ongoing costs). 2. Cutting staff and program (18%) – mostly this involved eliminating staff positions, cutting staff positions to part-time or fewer hours, going to volunteer staff. 3. Reducing facility costs (3%) – scaling back, delaying or eliminating construction plans, deferred maintenance, delaying equipment upgrades, etc.

http://www.leaderresources.org/assets/images/Adult/Stewardship_in_Hard_Times.pdf

[Images for stewardship in hard times - Leader Resources WHAT'S A CHURCH TO DO?](#)

Stewardship in the Hard Times - New Jersey Synod

Here are several resources that can help aid you and your congregation in challenging times:

[The 90 Day Stewardship Window](#)

[Contingency Planning for Congregations- ELCA](#)

[When You Can No Longer Afford Your Current Ministry](#)

<https://www.njsynod.org/stewardship-in-the-hard-times>

[Images for Stewardship in the Hard Times](#)

The Crisis in the Churches: Spiritual Malaise, Fiscal Woe by Robert Wuthnow (Author)

At a time when already overworked clergy are being called upon by budget cutting politicians to do more for the poor, the sick, and the elderly, American churches are suffering persistent financial shortfalls. In fact, contrary to popular media images of millionaire televangelists, America's churches are cutting back programs and staff, clergy salaries are stagnating, and many parishes are having trouble raising enough money to keep the church lit and heated on Sunday. Why are America's churches in financial distress? Robert Wuthnow, a leading commentator on religious life in America, asserts that the steady drop in donations, volunteering, and personal involvement is a direct result of a spiritual crisis--a crisis caused in large part by the clergy's failure to address the vital relationships between faith and money, work, stewardship, giving, and economic justice. In *The Crisis in the Churches*, Wuthnow offers a searching study of this financial crisis and of the spiritual vacuum that has silently grown worse during the past decade. To do this, he lets the churches speak for themselves, quoting extensively from interviews with clergy and laity in sixty Protestant and Catholic congregations throughout the U.S., and drawing from the texts of over 200 sermons, from church financial records, and a national survey. What emerges is that parishioners often feel the church does not care about what they do from Monday to Friday, offers no guidance in their most pressing day to day concerns, yet always seems to be asking for more money. Clergy, for their part, say they hesitate to talk about finances because they know "the money question" makes people uncomfortable. But failure to raise the subject often makes it necessary to cut the very programs and services that middle class parishioners desire and would support. Wuthnow argues that in order to survive, churches must find ways to minister to the economic concerns of their own middle class parishioners. Indeed, of every \$1,000 received by churches, \$900 comes from people who work in middle class occupations. Clearly, anything that motivates middle class members to become more involved will strengthen a church's financial well-being and capacity to serve its people. Although the situation is critical, Wuthnow finds much cause for hope. He points to ideas and programs that some churches have enacted to challenge their members to think differently about work and money and giving. Parishioners sometimes respond positively when clergy speak boldly and concretely about matters of faith and finance, and some churches have formed small groups whose members meet regularly to discuss issues of spirituality, work, personal finances, and stewardship.

A serious and sympathetic examination of the crisis behind the stained glass, this thought-provoking volume will be highly valuable both practically and as moral support to clergy, parishioners, and anyone else concerned about restoring vitality and significance to American churches.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Crisis-Churches-Spiritual-Malaise/dp/019511020X>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/798384.The_Crisis_in_the_Churches

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0198027028>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0761990372>

Page 67

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=289> Cash and Character: Talking About Money in the Church

http://www.princeton.edu/paw/archive_old/PAW97-98/13-0408/0408irtx.html
<http://spoq.us/the-crisis-in-the-churches-spiritual-malaise-fiscal-woe.html>
<https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4396>
<https://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-21047210.html>
<http://www.nytimes.com/1997/07/26/us/beliefs-311375.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Wuthnow
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/arts/educational-magazines/wuthnow-robert-1946>
<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Wuthnow/e/B000APPC3K>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/170297.Robert_Wuthnow
[Images for Robert Wuthnow \(Author\)](#)
[Images for The Crisis in the Churches: Spiritual Malaise, Fiscal Woe by Robert Wuthnow \(Author\)](#)

The Great Recession: Its Effects on Congregations and What We Learned – Parish Paper

Recent results from the 2013 Congregational Economic Impact Study attempted to identify the factors that influenced church economic stability during this recent recession.¹ Among the causes that they discovered were declining church attendance, lower giving by members, and shifts in the average age and ethnicity of attendees.

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/Resources/Documents/ParishPaper/ParishPaper-July13.pdf>
<http://vbmb-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/P-P-7-2013-Great-Recession-Lessons.pdf>
<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/> The Great Recession: Its Effects on Congregations and What We Learned – July 2013
[Images for The Great Recession: Its Effects on Congregations and What We Learned – Parish Paper](#)
<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>
<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/conference-news/the-parish-paper>
<http://www.hcucc.org/the-parish-paper>
<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue-index> Back Issue Index | The Parish Paper

The Mainline Church's Funding Crisis: Issues and Possibilities by Ronald E. Vallet (Author), Charles E. Zech (Author)

This study documents the continuing decline in mission funding throughout the mainline denominations in North America and Australia and offers sound, biblically-based recommendations for turning the situation around. The authors argue that the churches are fatally enmeshed in the presuppositions of modernity and that real solutions can be found in renewed Bible study and reflection.

<http://www.amazon.com/Ronald-E.-Vallet/e/B001KHH2VC>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1597528757>
<https://www.amazon.com/Ronald-E.-Vallet/e/B001KHH2VC>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/990080.Ronald_E_Vallet
[Images for Ronald E. Vallet \(Author\)](#)
https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/business/about/staff/biodetail.html?mail=charles.zech@villanova.edu&xsl=bio_long
<http://fancys.store/pdf/best-practices-parish-stewardship-charles>
<https://www.amazon.com/Charles-E.-Zech/e/B001JPCDRS>
http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/53770.Charles_E_Zech
[Images for Charles E. Zech \(Author\)](#)
[Images for The Mainline Church's Funding Crisis: Issues and Possibilities by Ronald E. Vallet \(Author\), Charles E. Zech \(Author\)](#)

Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble

Though the fig tree does not blossom,
 and no fruit is on the vines;
 though the produce of the olive fails
 and the fields yield no food;
 though the flock is cut off from the fold
 and there is no herd in the stalls,
 yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
 I will exult in the God of my salvation.
 GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
 he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
 and makes me tread upon the heights.

oremus Bible Browser: Habakkuk 3:17-19

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=237351747>
[Images for Trust and Joy in the Midst of Trouble](#)

20 Things You Will Need to Survive When the Economy Collapses and the Next Great Depression Begins

The following is a list of 20 things you and your family will need to survive when the economy totally collapses, and the next Great Depression begins....

#19) A Community

During a long-term crisis, it is those who are willing to work together that will have the best chance of making it. Whether it is your family, your friends, a **church** or a local group of people that you know, make sure that you have some people that you

can rely on and work together with in the event that everything hits the fan. Loners are going to have a really hard time of surviving for long.

<http://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=219>

[Images for Need to Survive When the Economy Collapses](#)

[Images for those willing to work together will have the best chance of making it](#)

What to Keep, What to Cut: Reshaping Budgets in Times of Adversity » Alban at Duke Divinity School

Hopefully, Western has not only resolved its own financial challenge but has been a good model for our members as they face their own personal financial challenges. An economic crisis isn't a time to panic. It is a time to pray, to clearly identify issues, to utilize—not abandon—the strategic plan, and a time to have open communications with all stakeholders.

[Alban at Duke Divinity School » What to Keep, What to Cut: Reshaping Budgets in Times of Adversity](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/what-to-keep-what-to-cut-reshaping-budgets-in-times-of-adversity/>

<https://alban.org/archive/what-to-keep-what-to-cut/>

<https://alban.org/category/management/page/2/>

<https://alban.org/author/alban/page/42/>

[Images for What to Keep, What to Cut: Reshaping Budgets in Times of Adversity » Alban at Duke Divinity School](#)

[Worship Resources for Tough Economic Times | UUA.org](#)

These are difficult and unsettling economic times for many Unitarian Universalists (UUs), our communities, our nation, and our world. Yet money is still one of the great taboos, generally unaddressed in our sanctuaries except during the annual canvas and then only reluctantly. So how do we speak to the *experience* of these times? Can we find words that will help us to speak with and to one another as economic beings, inextricably bound with one another in this global economy? Can we talk about money without asking for it or decrying the unjust distribution of it, but as a fundamental and inescapable reality of our lives?

<https://www.uua.org/worship/collections/troubled-economy>

[Images for Worship Resources for Tough Economic Times](#)

My five booklets included in Rural Ministry Resources were written during the farm crisis of the 1980s

[The Farm Crisis - Iowa Public Television](#)

The Farm Crisis is a 90-minute film produced by Iowa Public Television that examines the economic and personal disasters that afflicted the agriculture sector in the 1980s.

http://www.iptv.org/iowastories/story.cfm/farm-crisis/10632/frc_20130701/video

[Images for Farm Crisis - Iowa Public Television](#)

and offer perspective on the debt crisis 30 years later.

Who Will Stand Up for the Family Farm?

Who Owes Whom? – The Debt Crisis

Page 17

Forgive Us Our Debts

Page 43

What Are We Going to Do with All This Debt?

Page 57

Chapter 7 Living out a Vision For A Just Future

Page 61

Strengthening Our Rural Communities

Chapter 17 Bringing About Community Economic Development Page 79

Family Farm or Factory Farm: A Time to Choose

Those Who Till the Soil Do Not Harvest Its Bounty

Page 13

Rural Communities: Dying or Being Reborn?

Debt Exacts a Price of Death and Despair

Page 13

The Earth Is Our Home

Plan of Oikonomia

Page 27

Norway is one of the few countries in the world which is avoiding the debt trap and saving for the future.

Resources

[Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund Hits \\$1 Trillion \[Infographic\] - Forbes](#)

The world's biggest state piggy bank just passed a major milestone. Earlier this week, it was announced that Norway's sovereign wealth fund surpassed the \$1 trillion mark for the first time, driven by climbing stock markets and currency shifts. Just to put that into perspective: \$1 trillion is about the same size as Mexico's economy and it equates to over \$190,000 for each of Norway's 5.2 million citizens. The country is a major oil producer, and it transferred its first revenue to the fund, officially the Government Pension Fund of Norway, in May 1996. Since then, the fund has grown to become one of the world's biggest investors in stocks, owning \$667 billion of shares in more than 9,000 companies around the world including Apple, Nestle and Microsoft.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2017/09/22/norways-sovereign-wealth-fund-hits-1-trillion-infographic/#3151aef783c9>

[Images for Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund Hits \\$1 Trillion \[Infographic\] - Forbes](#)

<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/world-news/pension-crisis/norway-the-largest-sovereign-wealth-fund-in-the-world/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-swf-ceo-factbox/factbox-norways-960-billion-sovereign-wealth-fund-idUSKBN18T283>

<https://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21729458-5m-odd-norwegians-own-more-1-all-shares-world-norways>

<http://money.cnn.com/2017/09/19/investing/norway-pension-fund-trillion-dollars/index.html>
<https://www.economist.com/news/business-and-finance/21707435-norways-global-fund-its-tough-small-democracy-run-worlds-biggest>
<http://ieefa.org/norway-seat-worlds-biggest-sovereign-wealth-fund-urged-modernize-investment-strategy-including-renewables/>
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/Norway-sovereign-wealth-fund>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moWUvXqQ8Po> Norway Has The Largest Sovereign Wealth Fund In The World - YouTube
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/worlds-biggest-sovereign-wealth-fund-delivers-record-return/articleshow/63095046.cms>
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/03/apple-tencent-and-microsoft-how-norway-s-massive-oil-fund-made-130-billion-in-one-year>
<https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Norways-1-Trillion-Wealth-Fund-Expects-Big-Swings-In-Value.html>
<https://medium.com/world-economic-forum/what-is-a-sovereign-wealth-fund-d10261add745>
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/aug/24/norway-1tn-wealth-fund-urged-to-keep-oil-and-gas-investments>
<http://www.pionline.com/article/20180410/ONLINE/180419982/norwegian-government-rejects-private-equity-investments-for-sovereign-wealth-fund>
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/national-today-newsletter-budget-ghana-peacekeepers-norway-1.4552553> Norwegians get richer as sovereign wealth fund adds billions | CBC
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_Pension_Fund_of_Norway
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_wealth_fund Largest sovereign wealth funds

Sustainability - Simple English Wikipedia

Sustainability means that a process or state can be maintained at a certain level for as long as is wanted. One definitions of sustainability is the one created by the [Brundtland Commission](#), led by the former Norwegian Prime Minister [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#). The Commission defined [sustainable development](#) as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."^[1] Sustainability relates to the connection of [economic](#), [social](#), [institutional](#) and [environmental](#) aspects of human [society](#), as well as the non-[human](#) environment.^[2] Sustainability is one of the four Core Concepts behind the [2007 Universal Forum of Cultures](#).



The Earth Day flag includes a NASA Blue Marble photo.

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainability>
[Images for sustainability](#)

13) Who will care for the elderly?

A member of one of the congregations I served related that she sometimes worked as many as 80 hours a week as a supervisor at a nursing home. When I asked the reason, she stated, "We can't find enough CNAs (certified nursing assistants). I don't know what's going to happen in the future." She added, "It costs \$8,000 a month for residents. Children may need to care for their aging parents." From the beginning of time, parents raised children, in part, to provide for them in their old age. Children, in turn, saved to care for their aging parents.

Resources

Honour thy father and thy mother - Wikipedia

The words of Jesus and the teaching of Paul indicate that adult children remain obligated to honor their parents by providing for material needs.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honour_thy_father_and_thy_mother
[Images for honour thy father and thy mother](#)

Obligation to care for aging parents. | Jewish Values Online

[Click here for a\(n\) Reform answer by Rabbi Holly Cohn](#)
[Click here for a\(n\) Orthodox answer by Rabbi Gidon Rothstein](#)
[Click here for a\(n\) Conservative answer by Rabbi Michael Schwab](#)

<http://www.jewishvaluesonline.org/36>
[Images for obligation to care for aging parents](#)

Socialism Has Destroyed the Social Structure - Armstrong Economics

Socialism has drastically altered the family structure. Government claimed it would replace the parents, and, as a result, government succeeded in altering the very foundation of humanity that supported the family for centuries.

<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/history/americas-economic-history/socialism-has-destroyed-social-structure/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/armstrongeconomics101/how-socialism-has-destroyed-the-family-structure/>

Jesus on the cross arranged for his mother to be cared for by the beloved disciple.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

[John 19:25-27 - oremus Bible Browser - Oremus.org](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=355735951)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=355735951>

[Images for Crucifixion of Jesus](#)

Now, many are becoming increasingly dependent upon the state, while the family unit is being replaced. The rising expectations of this arrangement may turn out to be unsustainable leaving future generations to face a conundrum with no easy answers.

Resources

Adult Children are Legally Required to Care for Aging Parents in India – Elder Guru

I can't help but wonder if, given America's rapidly aging population, we will see some legal caregiving requirements on the part of adult children in the future. Surely the government can't care for everyone.

<http://www.elderguru.com/adult-children-are-legally-required-to-care-for-aging-parents-in-india/>

[Images for Adult Children are Legally Required to Care for Aging Parents in India – Elder Guru](#)

Aging in America: Crisis in long-term care - YouTube

There are currently about 40 million Americans over the age of 65, and those over 80 are the fastest-growing segment of our population. Rita Braver reports on a group of seniors who have banded together and found a way to make their golden years not just affordable, but truly "golden."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLKTThGrAxw>

[Images for Aging in America: Crisis in long-term care - YouTube](#)

<https://www.cbsnews.com/videos/aging-in-america-crisis-in-long-term-care/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/aging-in-america-stuck-in-the-middle/>

Are children still obligated to look after their aged parents in Chinese societies today?

There is a Chinese saying 养儿防老 which basically translates to 'raising a child is an insurance for old age'.

<https://www.quora.com/Are-children-still-obligated-to-look-after-their-aged-parents-in-Chinese-societies-today>

[Images for Are children still obligated to look after their aged parents in Chinese societies today?](#)

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/china-law-forces-adult-children-to-visit-and-care-for-their-elderly-parents-8681677.html>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/relationships/elder-care-is-about-more-than-duty-its-the-law/article546012/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/03/world/asia/filial-piety-once-a-virtue-in-china-is-now-the-law.html>

<https://www.chinasource.org/blog/posts/caring-for-elderly-parents-in-china>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/07/01/china-children/2480593/>

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/chinese-laws-requires-adults-to-care-for-aging-parents-china-economy/1708639.html>

Hidden Debt, Hidden Deficits: The 2019 Update | Hoover Institution

Rauh's new figures show that under market valuation principles, the total unfunded pension debt nationwide to public employees rose between 2015 and 2017 from \$3.846 trillion to \$4.145 trillion. More important, in FY2017, state and local governments contributed \$185 billion to pension payments, or 8.0 percent of every dollar they raised in revenue, up dramatically from 4.9 percent in FY2015. However, this amount still proved insufficient, as the true annual cost of keeping pension liabilities from rising would be approximately \$338 billion. This "true cost" figure amounts to over 14 percent of all the revenue generated by state and local governments, or a whopping 21 percent of their tax revenue.

<https://www.hoover.org/news/hidden-debt-hidden-deficits-2019-update>

[Images for Hidden Debt, Hidden Deficits: The 2019 Update | Hoover Institution](#)

Leadership and Entitlement – ThomRainer.com

The federal government, as the most obvious example, has 235 entitlement programs that cost the taxpayers over one trillion dollars every year. Those programs present the most serious challenges to the economic future of the United States. The three biggest entitlement programs are Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. In recent days, the annual reports of Social Security and Medicare were released. Both programs, the respective trustees of the trust funds said, are on an unsustainable path. Their very solvency is in jeopardy.

http://thomrainer.com/2012/04/leadership_and_entitlement/

[Images for Leadership and Entitlement – ThomRainer.com](#)

Medicare will run out of money sooner than expected, report warns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare will run out of money sooner than expected, and Social Security's financial problems can't be ignored either, the government said Tuesday in a sobering checkup on programs vital to the middle class. The report from program trustees says Medicare will become insolvent in 2026 — three years earlier than previously forecast. Its giant trust fund for inpatient care won't be able to fully cover projected medical bills starting at that point. The report says Social Security will become insolvent in 2034 — no change from the projection last year.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/medicare-will-run-out-of-money-sooner-than-expected-report-warns>

[Images for Medicare will run out of money sooner than expected](#)

<https://nypost.com/2018/06/05/medicare-social-security-running-out-of-money-faster-than-expected/>

[Images for medicare-social-security-running-out-of-money-faster-than-expected](#)

<http://fortune.com/2016/06/22/medicare-reserves-exhausted-soon/>

[Images for medicare-reserves-exhausted-soon](#)

Pensions crisis - Wikipedia

The pensions crisis or pensions timebomb is the predicted difficulty in paying for corporate or government employment retirement pensions in various countries, due to a difference between pension obligations and the resources set aside to fund them. The basic difficulty of the pension problem is that institutions must be sustained over far longer than the political planning horizon.^[1] Shifting demographics are causing a lower ratio of workers per retiree; contributing factors include retirees living longer (increasing the relative number of retirees), and lower birth rates (decreasing the relative number of workers, especially relative to the [Post-WW2 Baby Boom](#)). An international comparison of pension institution by countries is important to solve the pension crisis problem.^[2] There is significant debate regarding the magnitude and importance of the problem, as well as the solutions.^[3]

For example, as of 2008, the estimates for the underfunding of the [United States](#) state pension programs ranged from \$1 trillion using a discount rate of 8% to \$3.23 trillion using U.S. Treasury bond yields as the discount rate.^{[4][5]} The [present value](#) of unfunded obligations under [Social Security](#) as of August 2010 was approximately \$5.4 trillion. In other words, this amount would have to be set aside today so that the principal and interest would cover the program's shortfall between tax revenues and payouts over the next 75 years.^[6]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pensions_crisis

[Images for pensions crisis](#)

Public Pension Crisis: Is Massive Debt Bankrupting Cities - YouTube

A well-known columnist and critic of public pensions blasts the system claiming it is bankrupting cities because of the insane retirement deals. However, employees say this is fair compensation in their retirement years. PBS reporter David Nazar interviews CityWatch Watchdog Jack Humphreville.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26GO4P_IohU

[Images for Public Pension Crisis: Is Massive Debt Bankrupting Cities - YouTube](#)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2016/06/04/world-faces-pensions-crisis-warns-oecd/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAHp80H4Tko> At Issue: Public Pension Debt Crisis - YouTube

[Images for Public Pension Debt Crisis - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQhUCJajfDs> 2018 Will Finally Bring The Pension Crisis to Light-Pension Crisis Unfold 2018

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_mgaL2d3ic Pension crisis threatens young | Personal Finance - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrC4_PbOnVc Pension Crisis - State And Local Government Pensions Underfunded - YouTube

[Images for Pension Crisis - State And Local Government Pensions Underfunded - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E415r4ryRIY> In Depth: Pension Crisis - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uGKCIYw6dM> America's Pension Crisis Is Getting Worse - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sn4dgR3PP4> Are pensions America's next looming crisis? - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3jyylWqjrQ> Warning Workers about the Pension Crisis - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwr1nic8HJM> The Coming Pensions Crisis - YouTube

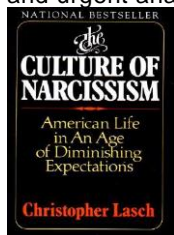
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbmQyYhliDM> The Pension crisis - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SS4FIZr1ZI> Joshua Rauh: The Looming Pension Crisis - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=px4bIK-rRZc> Keiser Report: Pension Crisis (E1052) - YouTube

The Culture of Narcissism: American Life in an Age of Diminishing Expectations by Christopher Lasch (Author)

When *The Culture of Narcissism* was first published in 1979, Christopher Lasch was hailed as a "biblical prophet" (*Time*). Lasch's identification of narcissism as not only an individual ailment but also a burgeoning social epidemic was groundbreaking. His diagnosis of American culture is even more relevant today, predicting the limitless expansion of the anxious and grasping narcissistic self into every part of American life. *The Culture of Narcissism* offers an astute and urgent analysis of what we need to know in these troubled times.



<https://www.amazon.com/Culture-Narcissism-American-Diminishing-Expectations/dp/0393307387>
http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/151878.The_Culture_of_Narcissism
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/culture-of-narcissism-christopher-lasch/1100879610>
<https://www.norton.com/books/The-Culture-of-Narcissism/>
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0393307387>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Culture_of_Narcissism_American_Life.html?id=7zhc7oT80SQC
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Culture_of_Narcissism_American_Life.html?id=egs-ZMX3ZN0C
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Culture_of_Narcissism.html?id=wusGtAEACAAJ
https://thezeitgeistmovement.se/files/Lasch_Christopher_The_Culture_of_Narcissism.pdf
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-culture-of-narcissism-christopher-lasch/1122989164>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/07/books/review/Siegel-t.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Culture_of_Narcissism
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Lasch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRJl54Y_VCK Christopher Lasch The Pursuit of Progress (1/2) – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbJIULQouZk> Christopher Lasch The Pursuit of Progress (2/2) - YouTube
<https://www.amazon.com/Christopher-Lasch/e/B000APM2QU>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/87816.Christopher_Lasch
[Images for Christopher Lasch \(Author\) culture of narcissism](#)
[Images for American Life in an Age of Diminishing Expectations by Christopher Lasch \(Author\)](#)

The 2030 Problem: Caring for Aging Baby Boomers - NCBI - NIH

A major public policy concern in the long-term care field is the potential burden an aging society will place on the care-giving system and public finances. The “2030 problem” involves the challenge of assuring that sufficient resources and an effective service system are available in thirty years, when the elderly population is twice what it is today.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1464018/>
[Images for 2030 Problem: Caring for Aging Baby Boomers](#)

Trustees Report Summary - Social Security

Both Social Security and Medicare face long-term financing shortfalls under currently scheduled benefits and financing.

<https://www.ssa.gov/oact/trsum/>
[Images for Trustees Report Summary - Social Security](#)
<https://www.ssa.gov/oact/TRSUM/2015/tr15summary.pdf>

U.S. Healthcare Crash: your survival kit by Robert Bacher

FACT: In 1950, the U.S. life expectancy was fifth-best in the world but ranks 42nd today.
 FACT: We are sicker than we were 30 years ago as all chronic diseases and cancers are increasing vs. decreasing.
 FACT: Over 400,000 Americans are actually killed by our health care system every year.
 FACT: The average family of four pays over \$18,000/year for health coverage and this figure will double in 10 years.
 The U.S. health care system is a “sick care” focused dysfunctional and failing industry. Our medical approach of treating the symptoms versus the cause of disease is a fatal flaw in the system. Our total costs are three times higher than most developed countries in the world at \$3.4 trillion. These future costs are unsustainable for our country, businesses, and for us. Fortunately, there’s this fact: all chronic diseases are caused by lifestyle changes and are preventable. Solutions exist for you to lower costs, improve health, and increase lifespan. The first step is recognizing you are responsible and accountable for your own health. The next step is changing your lifestyle. This book will give you the knowledge, will and skill to do this in a doable and inexpensive way and help you live a longer, healthier life.



<https://www.amazon.com/U-S-Healthcare-Crash-your-survival-ebook/dp/B06ZYLZ5RQ>
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34877815-u-s-healthcare-crash>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115303.Robert_Bacher
[Images for Robert Bacher, author healthcare crash](#)
[Images for U.S. Healthcare Crash: your survival kit by Robert Bacher](#)

Why Long-Term Care for U.S. Seniors is Headed for 'Crisis' | PBS.org

The experts say that in just a few short years, as the population of baby boomers retires, long-term care of the elderly will become a national crisis. In fact, it's estimated that 70 percent of Americans who reach the age of 65 will need some kind of long-term care for at least three years during their lifetime.

But [Dr. Bruce Chernof](#) — president and CEO of the [SCAN Foundation](#), which focuses on senior issues — says this doesn't have to be a crisis if Americans commit themselves to a national dialogue on long-term care and do it now.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/americas-looming-long-term-care-crisis-and-what-can-be-done/>

[Images for Why Long-Term Care for U.S. Seniors is Headed for 'Crisis' | PBS.org](http://www.pbs.org/healthcarecrisis/longterm.html)
[Images for americas-looming-long-term-care-crisis-and-what-can-be-done](http://www.pbs.org/healthcarecrisis/longterm.html)
[http://www.pbs.org/healthcarecrisis/longterm.html](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/long-term-care/page/9)
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/long-term-care/page/9>

When I was growing up in the 1960s, there was a statement in the protest movements that asserted, "Don't trust anybody over 30." Most young adults wanted to move out of their parents' home and establish their independence. Fortunately, I do not hear that statement now, and interestingly, "For First Time in Modern Era, Living with Parents Edges Out Other Living Arrangements for 18- to 34-Year-Olds." Perhaps, this development portends the possibility of children assuming greater responsibility in caring for their parents.

Resources

For First Time in Modern Era, Living With Parents Edges Out Other Living Arrangements for 18-34-Year-Olds: Share living with spouse or partner continues to fall

Broad demographic shifts in marital status, educational attainment and employment have transformed the way young adults in the U.S. are living, and a new Pew Research Center analysis of census data highlights the implications of these changes for the most basic element of their lives – where they call home.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/05/24/for-first-time-in-modern-era-living-with-parents-edges-out>
[Images for For First Time in Modern Era, Living With Parents Edges Out Other Living Arrangements for 18-34-Year-Olds: Share living with spouse or partner continues to fall](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/05/24/for-first-time-in-modern-era-living-with-parents-edges-out)
<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/05/24/in-the-u-s-and-abroad-more-young-adults-are-living-with-their-parents/>
<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2015/07/29/more-millennials-living-with-family-despite-improved-job-market/>
[Images for Living With Parents](http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/05/24/479327382/for-first-time-in-130-years-more-young-adults-live-with-parents-than-partners)
<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/05/24/479327382/for-first-time-in-130-years-more-young-adults-live-with-parents-than-partners>
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/alexandratalty/2015/07/31/more-millennials-living-at-home-than-ever-before/#400dab101702>
[Images for more-millennials-living-at-home-than-ever-before](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/young-adults-more-likely-to-live-with-parents-than-ever-before_us_5745bc0be4b0dacf7ad383fd)
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/young-adults-more-likely-to-live-with-parents-than-ever-before_us_5745bc0be4b0dacf7ad383fd
<http://www.businessinsider.com/millennial-men-living-at-home-2016-5>
<http://time.com/4108515/millennials-live-at-home-parents/>
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/24/goodbye-empty-nest-millennials-staying-longer-with-parents.html>
[Images for goodbye-empty-nest-millennials-staying-longer-with-parents](http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/24/goodbye-empty-nest-millennials-staying-longer-with-parents.html)

Intergenerational living Jul 03, 2014 by Carol Howard Merritt – Christian Century

So, if we can, we're going to do it the old-fashioned way—intergenerational living. After all, the way of the past seems to be the way of the future. And why not? Communal living makes sense. People are living longer. Why would someone have an empty bedroom, and no one living in it? Shouldn't we be better stewards of our resources? Why put more burden on the environment? Plus, our growing sense of autonomy seems to be doing terrible things to our mental health. Loneliness, depression, and anxiety have increased as we have made autonomous living a greater priority.

<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-07/intergenerational-living>
[Images for Intergenerational living Jul 03, 2014 by Carol Howard Merritt – Christian Century](http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-07/intergenerational-living)
<https://www.pinterest.com/robinvj/intergenerational-living/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/Benevilla/intergenerational/>
<https://intergenerationalhousing.wordpress.com/media/>

14) The rise and fall of empires

Empires rise and fall. None last forever, not even the Roman Empire. The British Empire is now a shell of its former self. Could the U.S. dominance of military and economic might be next to fall?

Resources

AMERICAN EMPIRE – Word and World – (Vol. 25, No. 2, Spring, 2005) – Luther Seminary

Word and World - American Empire (Spring 2005)

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=98
[Images for AMERICAN EMPIRE – Word and World – Spring, 2005 – Luther Seminary](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx)
<https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx>
<https://www.luthersem.edu/wordandworld/>
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1511 The Eagle and the Crows: A Parable? Frederick J. Gaiser
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1340 American Destiny and the Calling of the Church. Paul A. Wee
<https://www.amazon.com/American-Destiny-Calling-Church-Lutheran/dp/0806680024>
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=228 Bonhoeffer's Challenge to Evangelism. Jean Bethke Elshtain
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=424 Democracy, Original Sin, and the Global War on Terrorism. John J. Hamre
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=229 Do Not Be Afraid! The Call to Evangelism and Christian Intellectuals. Jean Bethke Elshtain
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1130 Hope in the Face of Empire: Failed Patriotism, Civil International Publicity, and Patriotic Peacebuilding. Gary M. Simpson

https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=619 Patriotism and Empire. Thomas D. Kennedy
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=162 Proclaiming (in/against) Empire Then and Now. Warren Carter
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=51 Horizontal at the Expense of Vertical? James C. Bangsund
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1262 Interdependence rather than Domination. Mark Thomsen
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=238 Introduction: The Accompaniment Model of Mission. Staff, Division for Global Mission, ELCA
https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=336 "It shall not reach you": Talisman or Vocation? Reading Psalm 91 in Time of War. Frederick J. Gaiser

Benjamin Franklin Quotes - Goodreads

"When the people find that they can vote themselves money that will herald the end of the republic."



https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/289513.Benjamin_Franklin?page=3
[Images for Benjamin Franklin](#)

8 striking parallels between the U.S. and the Roman Empire

Is our republic coming to an unceremonious end? History may not be on America's side.

http://www.salon.com/2012/12/26/8_striking_parallel_between_the_u_s_and_the_roman_empire/
[Images for 8 striking parallels between the U.S. and the Roman Empire](#)

Entitlement Quotes - Goodreads

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

— Margaret Thatcher



<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/entitlement>
[Images for Entitlement Quotes - Margaret Thatcher](#)
[Images for "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." — Margaret Thatcher](#)

How Empires Die | Armstrong Economics

This special report includes for the first time **"The Dark Age Cycle,"** which looks into how empires die. Sometimes they just collapse, yet at other times, civilization also collapses and moves into a Dark Age. **This report distinguishes all the historical changes that have taken place and the rise and fall of empires, nations, and city-states.** This dives into the monetary system and how it was reconstructed in order to ascertain the cycles that are so important to understand.

https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/products_services/products/how-empires-die/
[Images for How Empires Die | Armstrong Economics](#)
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/product/how-empires-die-report/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/uncategorized/the-rise-fall-of-empires-nations-city-states/>
[Images for armstrongeconomics/the-rise-fall-of-empires-nations-city-states](#)
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/armstrongeconomics101/basic-concepts/the-mechanism-behind-the-rise-fall-of-nations/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/the-dark-age-cycle/>

The Collapse of Civilization & the Inevitable Dark Age

Page 122

https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/products_services/products/coronavirus-the-socialist-revolution/

10 Greatest Empires in the History of World - Top Ten Lists

An empire involves the extension of a state's sovereignty over external territories. the greatness of an empire is based on the extent, population, economy, duration and many other factors such as type of rule and government, satisfaction by its people etc. The calculation of the land area of a particular empire is controversial. In general, the sequence in list centers on all the aspects that make an empire mighty, strong and progressive and all the factors as mentioned that make a kingdom great.

<http://www.smashinglists.com/top-10-greatest-empires-in-the-history-of-world/>
[Images for 10 Greatest Empires in the History of World](#)

The Age Of Decadence: Fall of the Roman Empire - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNWBqRWn9YM>
[Images for The Age Of Decadence: Fall of the Roman Empire](#)

The Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire | Armstrong Economics

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire was first published in 1787. It has been the classic history of the Roman Empire which still stands to this day as an unsurpassed accomplishment. Here you will find the complete original edition, in all six volumes.

<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/library/books/the-decline-fall-of-the-roman-empire/>
[Images for The Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire | Armstrong Economics](#)
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/ancient-rome/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/sovereign-debt-crisis/>
[Images for Sovereign Debt Crisis | Armstrong Economics](#)
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/category/world-news/banking-crisis/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/debt/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/war-cycle/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/politics/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/civil-unrest/>
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/tag/mouth-of-truth/>

From my study of history, it appears that this is just part of the cycle in how empires, nations, & city-states collapse. The very purpose of civilization is that there emerges a synergy that is greater than an individual can create alone. You no longer need to bake bread because someone started a bakery. However, when society turns in upon itself, that is the end. It is no longer beneficial to remain in a collective group. We are rapidly approaching this point and that erupts into separatism, which you are witnessing everywhere around the globe.

<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/international-news/politics/the-decline-fall-of-civilization-is-upon-us/>
[Images for armstrongeconomics/decline-fall-of-civilization-is-upon-us](#)
<https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/product/how-empires-die-report>
[Images for armstrongeconomics/how-empires-die-report](#)

The Empire Files

From inside history's biggest empire: Files logged by Abby Martin recording a world shaped by war & inequality.



<http://theempirefiles.tv/>
[Images for Empire Files Abby Martin](#)
http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=832&Itemid=74&jumival=1428
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gs4PxxVUxKs&t=249s> The Rise of History's Biggest Empire – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3Ht02fXvL0> The Empire Files: 9/11 & the Belligerent Empire - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PV_PLCC6jeI Empire Files: Abby Martin Exposes What Hillary Clinton Really Represents
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fat63bqvG8> Empire Files: Abby Martin Exposes John Podesta – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HelSaMSy8HY> Empire Files: Abby Martin Exposes Steve Bannon – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAmpD5MvDw8> Trump is Expanding the US Empire – YouTube
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNAlnQ4hvLtTAJclEcxfvHbMv2omP_rHC The Empire Files with Abby Martin - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG29FnXZm4F5U8xpgs1cs1Q> Empire Files - YouTube
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5270892/> The Empire Files (TV Series 2015–) - IMDb
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abby_Martin
<https://www.facebook.com/TheEmpireFiles/>
<https://twitter.com/abbymartin>

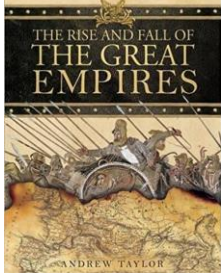
The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival by John Bagot Glubb

However, this may be, the thesis which I wish to propound is that priceless lessons could be learned if the history of the past four thousand years could be thoroughly and impartially studied. In these two articles, which first appeared in Blackwood's Magazine, I have attempted briefly to sketch some of the kinds of lessons which I believe we could learn. My plea is that history should be the history of the human race, not of one small country or period.

<http://www.rexresearch.com/glubb/glubb-empire.pdf>
<http://people.uncw.edu/kozloffm/glubb.pdf>
<https://www.isegoria.net/2014/07/summary-of-the-fate-of-empires/>
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fate-Empires-Search-Survival/dp/B00P7WZIV2>
<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/6177860-the-fate-of-empires-and-search-for-survival>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LVbwY54Ue8> Sir John Glubb - The Fate of Empires – YouTube
[Images for Sir John Glubb - The Fate of Empires - YouTube](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7Gc1bv-Mj4> The 7 Signs of An Empire in Decline - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDS13r7kY_k America's Collapse? The History Behind The Fall Of Empires - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyd43DDB8AjO3SVtP2ZRj4mb7cpy5Kcyw> Fate of empires – YouTube
<https://www.conciliators-guild.org/sir-john-glubb-the-fate-of-empires/>
<https://spartanideas.msu.edu/2013/10/24/the-fate-of-empires/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bagot_Glubb
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Bagot-Glubb>
[Images for Sir John Bagot Glubb](#)
[Images for The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival by John Bagot Glubb](#)

The Rise and Fall of the Great Empires: Taylor, Andrew

Every age of human history has been dominated by attempts by ethnic and national groups to establish their power and dominance over other, weaker entities, whether for reasons of territorial and cultural aggrandisement, material ambition or even individual obsession. Some empires, like Hitler's Third Reich, rise and fall with dizzying swiftness over a short period; others, like the British and French colonial empires, grow gradually over the centuries, only to crumble much more speedily than they had expanded. Author Andrew Taylor shines a spotlight on 25 imperial hegemonies from every period of global history. He provides lucid and elegant descriptions of the individual empires, characterizes the power structures and the social and cultural values at the heart of each, and identifies reasons for their rise and eventual fall. Empires that Shook the World also looks at some recurrent themes in the history of empire: the ways in which imperial structures collapse, their reliance on single, powerful individuals, and the way they cope with the problem of disparate peoples and religions within their borders. But above all, Andrew Taylor looks at the different ways in which empires have 'shaken the world': the Mongols of Genghis Khan made Europe quake with fear during the 13th century, while the political and cultural effects of the Roman and British Empire are still with us today. Sumerian Empire Chola Empire Assyrian Empire Songhai Empire Achaemenid Empire British Empire Athenian Empire Ottoman Empire Alexander the Great Inca Empire Roman Empire Aztec Empire Imperial China Trading Empires of the Spanish and Portuguese Empire of Aksum Mughal Empire Mongol Empire Napoleonic Empire Byzantine Empire Third Reich Holy Roman Empire Soviet Empire Umayyad Empire A New World Empire.



<https://www.amazon.com/Rise-Fall-Great-Empires/dp/1847245137>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6191951-the-rise-and-fall-of-the-great-empires>

<https://www.andrewtaylor.uk.net/books/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-great-empires/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Andrew-Taylor/e/B000APBNR4>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6928689.James_Andrew_Taylor

[Images for Andrew Taylor \(author\) rise and fall of empires](#)

[Images for The Rise and Fall of the Great Empires: Taylor, Andrew](#)

Followers of Jesus know better than to place their ultimate trust in empire.

Resources

[Not alone for mighty empire - Hymnary.org](#)

1 Not alone for mighty empire
Stretching far o'er land and sea,
Not alone for bounteous harvests,
Do we praise you gratefully.
Standing in the living present,
Memory and hope between,
Lord, we would with deep thanksgiving
Praise you most for things unseen.

2 Not for battleship and fortress,
Not for conquests of the sword,
But for conquests of the spirit
We give thanks to you, O Lord;
For the heritage of freedom,
For the home, the church, the school,
For the open door to justice
In a land the people rule.

3 For the armies of the faithful
Those who passed and left no name;
For the glory that illumines
Patriot lives of deathless fame;
For our prophets and apostles,
Loyal to the living Word;
For the strong and free in spirit
We give thanks to you, O Lord.

4 God of justice, save the people
From the clash of race and creed;
From the strife of class and faction,
Make our nation free indeed.

Keep its faith in simple justice
Strong as when its life began,
Till it finds its full fruition
By the guiding of your hand.

http://www.hymnary.org/text/not_alone_for_mighty_empire
[Images for not alone for mighty empire](#)

Paying Taxes to Caesar

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.' ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' ²¹They answered, 'The emperor's.' **Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'** ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

oremus Bible Browser: Matthew 22:15-22

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Matthew+22:15-22>

[Images for Paying Taxes to Caesar](#)

The commentary from Working Preacher on 1 Timothy 2:1-7 for 18PentecostC 2016 illustrates how the early Christians were urged to understand themselves over against emperor worship.

1 Timothy 2:1-7 Commentary by Christian A. Eberhart – Working Preacher

In this kind of imperial milieu, the request in 1 Timothy 2:2 to pray “for kings” instead of “to the kings” takes on new meaning. It implies most ostensibly that rulers, like everybody else, depend on the guidance and mercy of God.

Furthermore, it indirectly implies that **they are not divine but mortal humans**.

https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1769

[Images for rulers are not divine but mortal humans](#)

The commentary from Working Preacher on Ephesians 1:11-23 for All Saints Day 2013 illustrates how the early Christians' confession of Jesus as Lord also meant a denial that Caesar was Lord.

Ephesians 1:11-23 Commentary by Mark Tranvik - Working Preacher.org

Mixing Politics and Religion

Many Christians lifted up as examples in the church's history have found themselves in opposition to kings, rulers, and governments. Sometimes we forget that to confess Christ as “Lord” was a political statement in Paul's day. We have a tendency to spiritualize Scripture and miss the political messages. But to say Christ was Lord in the first century also meant that you were denying that Caesar was Lord. That could be dangerous and could lead to prison or even death.

So, when Paul stresses in Ephesians that not only is Christ seated at the right hand of God (Ephesians 1:20) but then goes on to remark that he is “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named” (Ephesians 1:21), **he is saying something about the relative power of governments and rulers. While they certainly are to be respected (see Romans 13:1-7), they are not to be equated in any way with the dominion of Christ himself.**

http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1634

[Images for church's opposition to kings, rulers, and governments](#)

The last Sunday of the church year proclaims Christ the King.

What Christ the King Sunday teaches us about exercising power | The Christian Century

This coming Sunday many Christians will celebrate Christ the King, and the phrase “Jesus is Lord” is one of the most ancient and basic Christian faith statements. But what exactly does it mean to say that Jesus is king or lord?

<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2016-11/what-christ-king-sunday-teaches-us-about-exercising-power>

[Images for What Christ the King Sunday teaches us about exercising power](#)

What are people of faith to make of all this?

Resources

God, Neighbor, Empire: The Excess of Divine Fidelity and the Command of the Common Good by Walter Brueggemann (Author), Tim A. Dearborn (Foreword)

Justice, mercy, and the public good all find meaning in relationship—a relationship dependent upon fidelity, but endlessly open to the betrayals of infidelity. This paradox defines the story of God and Israel in the Old Testament. Yet the arc of this story reaches ever forward, and its trajectory confers meaning upon human relationships and communities in the present. The Old Testament still speaks.

Israel, in the Old Testament, bears witness to a God who initiates and then sustains covenantal relationships. God, in mercy, does so by making promises for a just well-being and prescribing stipulations for the covenant partner's obedience. The nature of the relationship itself decisively depends upon the conduct, practice, and policy of the covenant partner, yet is radically

rooted in the character and agency of God—the One who makes promises, initiates covenant, and sustains relationship. This reflexive, asymmetrical relationship, kept alive in the texts and tradition, now fires contemporary imagination. Justice becomes shaped by the practice of neighborliness, mercy reaches beyond a pervasive quid pro quo calculus, and law becomes a dynamic norming of the community. The well-being of the neighborhood, inspired by the biblical texts, makes possible—and even insists upon—an alternative to the ideology of individualism that governs our society's practice and policy. This kind of community life returns us to the arc of God's gifts—mercy, justice, and law. The covenant of God in the witness of biblical faith speaks now and demands that its interpreting community resist individualism, overcome commoditization, and thwart the rule of empire through a life of radical neighbor love.

<https://www.amazon.com/God-Neighbor-Empire-Fidelity-Command/dp/1481305425>

<http://www.walterbrueggemann.com/2016/10/01/god-neighbor-empire/>

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/48151>

[http://www.baylorpress.com/it/Book/495/\[Relationality\].html](http://www.baylorpress.com/it/Book/495/[Relationality].html)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/behemoth/2016/issue-41-february-4-2016/youre-praying-wrong.html>

<https://vimeo.com/55755360> Dr. Walter Brueggemann Part 1 "Practicing Neighborhood Amid Empire"

<http://empireremixed.com/tag/walter-brueggemann/>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed/2016/11/10/brueggemanns-economics-law/>

<http://www.walterbrueggemann.com/blog/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Walter-Brueggemann/e/B001ILID72>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/48472.Walter_Brueggemann

[Images for Walter Brueggemann \(Author\)](#)

<http://www.theopedia.com/walter-brueggemann>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Brueggemann

<https://www.amazon.com/Tim-Dearborn/e/B001K81K32>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6919953.Tim_A_Dearborn

[Images for Tim A. Dearborn, author](#)

[Images for God, Neighbor, Empire: The Excess of Divine Fidelity and the Command of the Common Good by Walter Brueggemann \(Author\), Tim A. Dearborn \(Foreword\)](#)

Out of Babylon by Walter Brueggemann (Author)

It was the center of learning, commerce, wealth, and religion. Devoted to materialism, extravagance, luxury, and the pursuit of sensual pleasure, it was a privileged society. But, there was also injustice, poverty, and oppression. It was the great and ancient Babylon—the center of the universe.

And now we find Babylon redux today in Western society. Consumer capitalism, a never-ending cycle of working and buying, a sea of choices produced with little regard to life or resources, societal violence, marginalized and excluded people, a world headed toward climactic calamity. Where are the prophets—the Jeremiahs—to lead the way out of the gated communities of overindulgence, the high rises of environmental disaster, and the darkness at the core of an apostate consumer society?

Walter Brueggemann—a scholar, a preacher, a prophetic voice in our own time—challenges us again to examine our culture, turn from the idols of abundance and abuse, and turn to lives of meaning and substance.



<https://www.amazon.com/Out-Babylon-Walter-Brueggemann/dp/1426710054>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9068427-out-of-babylon>

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9781426710056#.Wszpa4jwaUk>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426729812>

<http://www.walterbrueggemann.com/resources/books/books-by-walter-brueggemann/>

<http://www.walterbrueggemann.com/2016/10/01/god-neighbor-empire/>

<http://www.walterbrueggemann.com/tag/book/page/5/>

https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/presidentialaddresses/JBL110_1_1Brueggemann1990.pdf [PDF] At the Mercy of Babylon: A Subversive Reading of the Empire Author(s): Walter Brueggemann - Society of Biblical Literature

<https://www.baptiststandard.com/opinion/other-opinions/right-or-wrong-resisting-the-values-of-babylon/>

<http://whateverisgood.blogspot.com/2012/03/out-of-babylon-by-walter-brueggemann.html>

[Images for Out of Babylon by Walter Brueggemann](#)

The Prophetic Imagination, 2nd Edition: Walter Brueggemann

In this challenging and enlightening treatment, Brueggemann traces the lines from the radical vision of Moses to the solidification of royal power in Solomon to the prophetic critique of that power with a new vision of freedom in the prophets. Here he traces the broad sweep from Exodus to Kings to Jeremiah to Jesus. He highlights that the prophetic vision not only embraces the pain of the people but creates an energy and amazement based on the new thing that God is doing. In this new edition, Brueggemann has completely revised the text, updated the notes, and added a new preface.

<https://www.amazon.com/Prophetic-Imagination-2nd-Walter-Brueggemann/dp/0800632877>

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/94307-the-prophetic-imagination>

<https://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/390/The-Prophetic-Imagination>
https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Prophetic_Imagination.html?id=VBUg98Ty6MAC
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/paperbacktheology/2007/10/prophetic-imagination-by-walter-brueggemann.html>
<https://onbeing.org/programs/walter-brueggemann-the-prophetic-imagination/>
<http://discerningreader.com/book-reviews/the-prophetic-imagination>
<http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/the-practice-of-prophetic-imagination-preaching-an-emancipating-word/>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/krista-tippett/walter-brueggemann-prophetic-imagination_b_1165745.html
<https://redeeminggod.com/prophetic-imagination/>
 Images for the prophetic imagination by walter brueggemann

Saving Christianity From Empire by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer (Author)

U.S. foreign policy today, as presented in official documents and carried out in Iraq, Afghanistan, and an ill-defined "war on terrorism," commits the United States to seek global domination through the unilateral exercise of military power. Critics and supporters of this policy rightly describe it in reference to empire. *Saving Christianity from Empire* examines four central themes. First, the book describes the nuts and bolts of present U.S. foreign policy, including the philosophical foundations and practical policy options used to justify and pursue empire. Second, the author asserts that empire distorts Christianity, especially in the U.S. context—one in which many Christians passively or actively support U.S. global domination through the exercise of unilateral military power, in opposition to the radical nonviolence of Jesus. In the U.S. imperial context, some combination of fear, patriotism, propaganda, and distorted theology results in broad-based support among Christians for policies that are dramatically opposed to authentic Christianity rooted in the life and faith of Jesus. In short, this theme addresses how the U.S. Empire subverts and distorts Christianity. Third, *Saving Christianity from Empire* describes empire as a key biblical theme. It explores three conflicting biblical streams, one that embraces or aspires to empire, one that portrays opposition to empire as essential for authentic faith, and another that explains imperial domination of Israel-Palestine as deserved punishment for sin. Finally, *Saving Christianity from Empire* explores the radical nonviolence of Jesus, the nuts and bolts of nonviolent power and nonviolent social change theory and practice, and the practical challenges to Christians living in an imperial nation now understood by many people throughout the world to be the gravest threat to world peace.



<https://www.amazon.com/Saving-Christianity-Empire-Jack-Nelson-Pallmeyer/dp/0826428304>
<https://www.stthomas.edu/justpeace/faculty/jack-nelson-pallmeyer.html>
<https://sojo.net/biography/jack-nelson-pallmeyer>
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/jack-nelson-pallmeyer>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jack-nelson-pallmeyer-264b04108>
<https://www.stthomas.edu/justpeace/faculty/jack-nelson-pallmeyer.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Nelson-Pallmeyer
<https://www.amazon.com/Jack-Nelson-Pallmeyer/e/B000APC29W>
https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/154988.Jack_Nelson_Pallmeyer
 Images for Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer (Author)
 Images for Saving Christianity From Empire by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer (Author)

15) Cautionary tales

I do not possess the ability to interpret dreams or to predict the future like Joseph, but I suggest that the

Seven years of plenty and seven years of famine

⁵³ The seven years of plenty that prevailed in the land of Egypt came to an end; ⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in every country, but throughout the land of Egypt there was bread.

oremus Bible Browser: [Genesis 41:53-57](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Genesis+41:53-57>

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joseph-ruler/>

Joseph's Granaries - Wikipedia

Joseph's Granaries is a designation for the [Egyptian pyramids](#) often used by early travelers to the region. The notion of a [granary](#) (*horreum*, θησαυρός) being associated with the Hebrew patriarch [Joseph](#) derives from the account in [Genesis 41](#), where "he gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt, and stored up food in the cities ... And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured" (vv. 48-9, [RSV](#)). "So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses (*horrea* [Vulgate](#), σιτοβολῶνας [LXX](#))^[1] and sold to the Egyptians" (v. 56). Similarly, in the [Quran](#): "(Joseph) said: 'Give me charge of the granaries (خُزَانِ) of the land. I shall husband them wisely'" (12:55).^[2]



Joseph, Overseer of Pharaoh's Granaries by Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1874).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph%27s_Granaries

[Images for Joseph's Granaries](#)

together with Jesus'

The parable of the wise and foolish maidens

25¹Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids² took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.³ Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ⁴When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁵but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁶As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁷But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." ⁸Then all those bridesmaids⁹ got up and trimmed their lamps. ¹⁰The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ¹¹But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." ¹²And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹³Later the other bridesmaids¹⁴ came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." ¹⁵But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." ¹⁶Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.¹⁷

oremus Bible Browser: Matthew 25:1-13

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Matthew+25:1-13>

[Images for parable of the wise and foolish maidens](#)

Parable of the Ten Virgins - Wikipedia

The Parable of the Ten Virgins, also known as the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins or the Parable of the ten bridesmaids,^[1] is one of the [parables of Jesus](#). According to [Matthew 25:1-13](#), ten virgins await a bridesgroom; five have brought enough oil for their lamps for the wait, while another five need to purchase more oil after the arrival is delayed. The five virgins who are prepared for the bridegroom's arrival are rewarded, while the five who are not prepared are disowned. The parable has a clear [eschatological](#) theme: be prepared for the [Day of Judgement](#).^[2] It was one of the most popular parables in the [Middle Ages](#) and had influence on [Gothic art](#), [sculpture](#) and the [architecture](#) of German and French [cathedrals](#).



Friedrich Wilhelm Schadow, *The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins*, 1838–1842 (detail), [Städel Museum](#), Frankfurt am Main.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable_of_the_Ten_Virgins

[Images for parable of the ten virgins](#)

serve as cautionary tales to congregations and to a country tempted to become too complacent with the present creature comforts.

Resources

[Conversations at the Kitchen Table by Arlene Reindel, Julie Raguse - Page x - Google Books Result](#)

Running on Empty: The Five Foolish Virgins

The Boy Scout motto applies: **Be prepared**

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1600342175>

Page 201

<https://www.amazon.com/Conversations-Kitchen-Table-Arlene-Reindel/dp/1600342175>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Conversations_at_the_Kitchen_Table.html?id=nCZOgc_EYVYC

[The Desire of Every Living Thing: A Memoir by Don Gillmor - Google Books Result](#)

My grandmother often invoked the Depression as a **cautionary tale**. It has been God's judgment, punishment perhaps for a nation's hubris, a country that celebrated itself too loudly. There had been seven years of plenty as Pharaoh had seen in his dream of the gaunt cows devouring the seven fatted ones, and they would be followed by seven years of lean. *The famine will consume the land, and the plenty will be unknown in the Land by reason of that famine which will follow, for it will be very grievous.*

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0307363651>

At the age of eighty, Don Gillmor's grandmother let slip the defining secret of her life: her twin sister Jean was not her twin, but her aunt, and her family had emigrated from Scotland to Winnipeg to escape the stigma of her illegitimacy. That revelation set Gillmor off on what seemed at first like the most personal of quests: to track down his ancestors. *The Desire of Every Living Thing* is also the story of the New World, the story of Winnipeg, the story of this country. Both an evocative family memoir and a brilliant feat of historical imagination, the book's most moving theme is how the discarded past haunts and shapes our lives without us even noticing.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Desire-Every-Living-Thing-Memoir/dp/0679310703>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1349951.The_Desire_of_Every_Living_Thing

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/60257/the-desire-of-every-living-thing-by-don-gillmor/9780679310709>

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Desire_of_Every_Living_Thing.html?id=aAiXAKvI_cEC

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/64806.Don_Gillmor

[Images for Don Gillmor, author the desire of every living thing](#)

[Images for The Desire of Every Living Thing: A Memoir by Don Gillmor](#)

For instance, a coordinated sabotage on major routes of transportation could disrupt the food supply. Likewise, a rogue state electromagnetic pulse attack on the electric grid could turn the lights out.

Resources

EMP Survival:How to Prepare Now and Survive, When an Electromagnetic Pulse Destroys Our Power Grid by Larry Poole (Author)

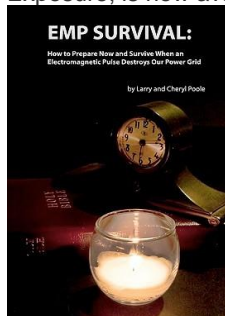
Military strategists in four countries have boasted that they can cripple the U.S. with an EMP attack. Other countries have protected their power grids from an EMP attack. The U.S. power grid is still vulnerable. A widespread power outage could take years to restore because the EMP destroys electronics including circuits and transformers.

Even unplugged electronics can be damaged. Only electronics stored in a faraday cage are protected.

Fuel, communications, power, water, and food will be unavailable within hours when emergency fuel runs out. Gas pumps and even pipelines rely on electronics.

Mob violence from mass evacuation of uninhabitable metropolitan areas will be a significant security issue within days. This book describes the risks and details how to prepare and survive.

Readers should also prepare for a potential nuclear attack. Radiation Survival: How to Prepare Now and Survive Radiation Exposure, is now available.



<https://www.amazon.com/EMP-Survival-Prepare-Electromagnetic-Destroys/dp/1456521357>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/10710845-emp-survival>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/emp-survival-larry-poole/1030175549>

<http://www.downloadbooks.live/best-book/1456521357/books-s1s11661852s-1ss2s17a67f11s-2s>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Emp-Survival-Larry-Poole/9781456521356>

<https://www.outdoorlife.com/photos/gallery/2015/05/emp-survival-9-ways-prepare-electro-magnetic-pulse>

<https://www.pinterest.com/edwardpaty/emp/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/cvfmc157/emp-survival/>

[Images for emp survival on pinterest](#)

<http://www.wikihow.com/Survive-an-EMP>

[Images for Survive an EMP](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/Dubbltap/prepping-empfaraday-cages/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Larry-Poole/e/B004PDH9YS>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4699745.Larry_Poole

[Images for Larry Poole \(Author\) EMP Survival](#)

[Images for EMP Survival:How to Prepare Now and Survive, When an Electromagnetic Pulse Destroys Our Power Grid by Larry Poole \(Author\)](#)

Preparing for the Cyberattack That Will Knock Out U.S. Power Grids by Stuart Madnick - Harvard Business Review

In our [research consortium at MIT Sloan](#), we have been studying ways that massive physical damage can happen to power grids and other industrial control systems through a cyberattack. The potential for massive damage is alarming, to say the least. The scenario of losing power for a long time — weeks or even months — is not unthinkable.

<https://hbr.org/2017/05/preparing-for-the-cyberattack-that-will-knock-out-u-s-power-grids>

<https://hbr.org/search?term=stuart+madnick>

<http://ewn.co.za/2017/11/29/this-is-how-to-prepare-for-a-cyber-attack>

<https://www.scmagazineuk.com/cyber-attack-how-to-prepare-your-organisation-for-the-new-normal/article/642905/>
<https://www.theguardian.com/media-network/media-network-blog/2013/aug/06/tips-prepare-organisation-cyber-attack>
<http://www.happypreppers.com/cyber-attack.html>
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/11/how-to-prepare-for-the-cyberattack-that-is-coming-to-your-company/>
[Images for Preparing for the Cyberattack That Will Knock Out U.S. Power Grids by Stuart Madnick - Harvard Business Review](#)

Survivor's Edge Magazine

The Ultimate Guide for Staying Alive

<http://survivorsedge.com/magazine/?v=7516fd43adaa>
[Images for Survivor's Edge Magazine](#)

The Art of Being Prepared for Any Catastrophe | SuperConsciousness

September is National Preparedness Month in the U.S. - spawned by the World Trade center trauma in 2001. In honor of the event, most Americans listen to a few speeches, wave a flag, and cram another piece of mom's apple pie down their throats. In truth, according to the American Red Cross, less than seven percent of Americans are prepared for a disaster. This complacency is not limited to the US. As the world community clings more desperately to its reliance on technology and "government" to support life itself, our collective sense of physical self-reliance and the psychological freedom it promotes is in a sorry state. In a few short generations, personal responsibility and accountability have become alien concepts.

<http://www.superconsciousness.com/topics/environment/art-being-prepared-any-catastrophe>
[Images for The Art of Being Prepared for Any Catastrophe | SuperConsciousness](#)
<http://www.livingwellspendingless.com/2015/01/23/5-things-right-now-prepare-catastrophe/>

16) Train coming down the tracks

If one sees the economy collapsing and civil unrest unfolding like a train coming down the tracks, one may want to figure out how to move off the tracks.

How To Avoid Being Hit By A Train - Defensive Driving

Don't walk, cycle, or ride on or near railroad tracks. Cross tracks only at designated crossings. Stay off bridges and out of tunnels. Finally, if your car stalls on a crossing **get** out immediately and call the police for help.

<https://www.defensivedriving.com/safe-driver-resources/how-to-avoid-being-hit-by-a-train/>
[Images for How To Avoid Being Hit By A Train](#)

17) Limited government or expanded government?

I suggest that Moses' words, "neither exalting himself above other members of the community nor turning aside from the commandment,"

Limitations of Royal Authority

¹⁴ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me', ¹⁵ you may indeed set over you a king whom the LORD your God will choose. One of your own community you may set as king over you; you are not permitted to put a foreigner over you, who is not of your own community. ¹⁶ Even so, he must not acquire many horses for himself, or return the people to Egypt in order to acquire more horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You must never return that way again.' ¹⁷ And he must not acquire many wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; also silver and gold he must not acquire in great quantity for himself. ¹⁸ When he has taken the throne of his kingdom, he shall have a copy of this law written for him in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ It shall remain with him and he shall read in it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, diligently observing all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰ neither exalting himself above other members of the community nor turning aside from the commandment, either to the right or to the left, so that he and his descendants may reign long over his kingdom in Israel.

[deuteronomy 17: 14-20 - oremus Bible Browser](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=164121896>

[Images for Limitations of Royal Authority deuteronomy 17: 14-20](#)

and Samuel's report of "all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king" can be instructive in the debate over limited government or expanded government.

Israel Demands a King

¹⁰ So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, 'These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; ¹² and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵ He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.'

1 Samuel 8:10-22 - oremus Bible Browser
<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=248761466>
[Images for Israel Demands a King](#)

A case can be made to support limited government.

Does the Bible Support Limited Government?

While the Bible does not provide support for one form of government over another, a strong case can be made for a limited role of government. Regardless of where you come down on these issues, here are some key points to consider from scripture:

<https://tifwe.org/bible-support-limited-government/>
[Images for Does the Bible Support Limited Government?](#)
<https://tifwe.org/resource/a-biblical-case-for-limited-government/>
[Images for a-biblical-case-for-limited-government](#)

Alexis de Tocqueville warned in 1835 about the dangers of soft despotism in Democracy in America.

Soft despotism - Wikipedia

In Volume II, Book 4, Chapter 6 of *Democracy in America*, de Tocqueville writes the following about soft despotism:

Thus, after having thus successively taken each member of the community in its powerful grasp and fashioned him at will, the supreme power then extends its arm over the whole community. It covers the surface of society with a network of small complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate, to rise above the crowd. The will of man is not shattered, but softened, bent, and guided; men are seldom forced by it to act, but they are constantly restrained from acting. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence; it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd.

I have always thought that servitude of the regular, quiet, and gentle kind which I have just described might be combined more easily than is commonly believed with some of the outward forms of freedom, and that it might even establish itself under the wing of the sovereignty of the people.

Our contemporaries are constantly excited by two conflicting passions: they want to be led, and they wish to remain free. As they cannot destroy either the one or the other of these contrary propensities, they strive to satisfy them both at once. They devise a sole, tutelary, and all-powerful form of government, but elected by the people. They combine the principle of centralization and that of popular sovereignty; this gives them a respite: they console themselves for being in tutelage by the reflection that they have chosen their own guardians. Every man allows himself to be put in leading-strings, because he sees that it is not a person or a class of persons, but the people at large who hold the end of his chain.

By this system the people shake off their state of dependence just long enough to select their master and then relapse into it again. A great many persons at the present day are quite contented with this sort of compromise between administrative despotism and the sovereignty of the people; and they think they have done enough for the protection of [individual freedom](#) when they have surrendered it to the power of the nation at large. This does not satisfy me: the nature of him I am to obey signifies less to me than the fact of extorted obedience. I do not deny, however, that a constitution of this kind appears to me to be infinitely preferable to one which, after having concentrated all the powers of government, should vest them in the hands of an irresponsible person or body of persons. Of all the forms that democratic despotism could assume, the latter would assuredly be the worst.

When the sovereign is elective, or narrowly watched by a legislature which is really elective and independent, the oppression that he exercises over individuals is sometimes greater, but it is always less degrading; because every man, when he is oppressed and disarmed, may still imagine that, while he yields obedience, it is to himself he yields it, and that it is to one of his own inclinations that all the rest give way. In like manner, I can understand that when the sovereign represents the nation and is dependent upon the people, the rights and the power of which every citizen is deprived serve not only the head of the state, but the state itself; and that private persons derive some return from the sacrifice of their independence which they have made to the public.^[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soft_despotism
[Images for Soft despotism by Alexis de Tocqueville in Democracy in America](#)