



# AMERICAN SINS IN ME WE TRUST

## MORE, MORE, MORE.

We live in a culture where people want more and more. Wanting to have things is not inherently wrong by any means. The problem comes when we want these things more than we want God; when we look to these things as our ultimate. Wealth and other material goods can be a gift from God, but they can also be a snare.

Jesus spoke extensively about money. It's not that money is evil. It's that money becomes a force of power in the world, a force that people are willing to do anything for. While many of us would never commit a crime to get money, we can be guilty of placing our faith, security, and hope in our possessions. It's dangerously easy to go from innocently having money to thinking we are so rich (especially in a country where even the poorest among us are among the wealthiest in the world) that we don't really need God.

## IN THE BIBLE.

### **1 Timothy 6:17**

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

## **Luke 12:13-21**

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14 Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” 15 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

16 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

## **QUESTIONS.**

- 1.) When is it okay to want something and when is it wrong?
- 2.) Besides money, how else can consumerism manifest itself?
- 3.) What can you do to live counter to consumerism culture?
- 4.) How can you best honor God with your possessions?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?