

Bankrupt Ideals Luke 12:13-21

Changes in art, music, drama, theology, and the mass media have negatively affected our **values**.

The majority of people have **unknowingly** adopted the bankrupt values of our culture.

1. **Personal Peace:**

And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

—Luke 12:19

Personal peace defined: *just to be let alone, not to be troubled by the troubles of other people, whether across the world or across the city—to live one's life with minimal possibilities of being personally disturbed.*

We have **more** but we are **less** content:

- More **toys** but less time to use them.
- Bigger houses but less solid **relationships** to make them homes.
- Concerned more with **feeling** good than **being** good.

When we make personal peace god over the needs of **others** and over the call of God to preach, heal, and deliver we are:

- **Spiritually** bankrupt.
- **Living** for a bankrupt ideal.

2. **Affluence:**

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

—Luke 12:15

Affluence: *an overwhelming, and ever-increasing prosperity—a life made up of things, things, and more things—a success judged by an ever-higher level of material abundance.*

Success **measured** by “an ever-higher level of material abundance” is bankrupt.

As the **material** standard of living goes up, **moral, spiritual, and relational** standard goes down.

Material possessions are not **ours**.

My crops, my barns, my grain, my goods, my church, **my...my...my...**

“The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;”

—Psalm 24:1

3. **Cultural Christianity:**

“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”
—Luke 12:21

Cultural Christianity means to pursue the God **we want** instead of the God **who is**.

Cultural Christianity is impotent with little or no impact on the **values** and **beliefs** of our society.

“¹But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”
—2 Timothy 3:1-5

Cultural Christianity **requires** God to grant us personal peace and affluence to **prove** He loves us.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."
—Luke 12:13

Obedience marks the **Biblical** Christian.

How to Change:

The turning point of our lives is when we stop seeking the god **we want** and start seeking the God **who is**.

Self-examination.

- Examine the **influences** of your life.
- Examine the values and ideals that **direct** your life.

Memory Verse:

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—Luke 12:15