

We Love Our Toys

We in the United States are being challenged with some serious problems like racism, climate change, human rights, and a division in our country which parallels the Civil War. However, among all of our shortcomings we have managed to be number one in the world for materialism and consumerism.

With less than 5% of the world's population we in the United States use 1/3 of the world's paper, we use ¼ of the world's oil and twenty-three percent of the coal. As a country we consume 24% of the world's energy. American kids, which make up 3% of the world's population consume 40% of the world's toys. By the age of seventy-five the average American generates 52 tons of garbage. We are even blessed with more shopping malls than high schools.

There is a false alert going around that there is not enough STUFF to go around so buy it now. Advertisers jump on the scarcity issue, and we buy more to stay ahead of the crowd. We get trapped into the concept that the more "toys" we buy the happier and the more secure we will be. We live in fear so we buy as much as we can.

All the stuff we accumulate will never improve our security nor our self-worth. Throughout my adult life I have seen big farms eat up the small farms, people believing that the more stuff they accumulate the longer they will survive. We live in fear that someone will get those toys before we do.

Our endless appetite to accumulate more stuff will not bring us peace of mind for we will never have enough. Our so called "patriotic duty" is not to get more but to share more. Not to keep up with the Joneses but to stop chasing false idols and accept the idea that we have already been established, accepted, loved. Our challenge is to move away from

a hard heart and a tight fist to gratitude and generosity. There is even a name for our addiction of consuming, American Dopamine. Dopamine is our pathway to pleasure which is fueled by our shopping addiction to accumulate more toys than those around us.

All of creation has been accepted, buying more will not add to what our creator has already given us. Buying bigger trucks, exploding more fireworks than the neighbor's, accumulating more land will not bring us the peace we all desire. We are aimlessly running around where our greed has outstripped our needs.

Our worth has already been established, it is not something we achieve, its free, it's the greatest gift of all. I smile at those running around needlessly trying to gather up all the toys available. Simply accept the gift from the Creator with gratitude and share your blessings with others. Living in fear that someone will come along and steal your toys is no way to live. Relax there is no scarcity.

May we all look in the mirror and find ways to move from Toys to one of gratitude and giving.

Sincerely;

Dennis Siebert