

Materialism, Consumerism, and the Good Life

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The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not enough for every man's greed. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

You must be the change you wish to see in the world. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

*Poor are not those who have too little, but those who want too much.
~ Marcus Aurelius Seneca*

*If you live for having it all, what you have is never enough.
~ J. Dominguez and V. Robin, *Your Money or Your Life**

*In a consumer society there are inevitably two kinds of slaves: the prisoners of addiction and the prisoners of envy.
~ Ivan Illich*

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
~ Margaret Mead*



Gandhi



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

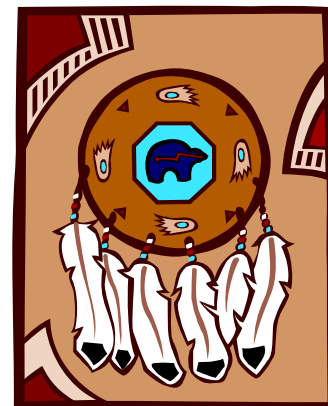
~ Excerpt from the American Constitution

*Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen six, result happiness.
Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six,
result misery.*

~ Charles Dickens

This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. What ever he does to the web, he does to himself.

~ Chief Seattle, American Indian Chief, 1854





By providing you with a new perspective, travel can teach as much about the culture you're a part of as the one you're visiting. Flirt with some new thinking. Nurture a global perspective. Ponder up-and-coming notions such as sustainable affluence, responsible consumption, controlling nature by obeying her, simplicity, and the global village. Is America's religion materialism? What can Europe teach us about quality of life?

~ Rick Steves, "Europe through the Back Door"

An attitude to life which seeks fulfillment in the single-minded pursuit of wealth — in short, materialism — does not fit into this world, because it contains within itself no limiting principle, while the environment in which it is placed is strictly limited.

~ E. F. Schumaker

The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money.

~ Anonymous

[Today's world is] like a ship in which the steerage passengers report the stern is sinking, to receive the reply from those in the first class lounge that they'll consider helping, but first they must deal with the rise in the price of fillet steak.

~ William Clark

The West must realize the potential for violence that exists among people who have lost all hope. It is not your lifestyle that they envy, nor is it your destruction they seek. It is because you have hope that they hate you, and they see this as the great inequity of the world today. One cannot love one's neighbour if hopelessness has rendered them unable to love even themselves.

~ Purves Musharraf (President of Pakistan)

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Compare what you want with what you have, and you'll be unhappy; compare what you have with what you deserve, and you'll be happy.

~ Evan Esar

