



Affluenza



WFAA

**DEFENSE: DRUNK TEEN DRIVER WHO KILLED
4 PEOPLE IS A VICTIM OF "AFFLUENZA"**

CNN

PEND NON-LETHAL AID TO REBELS AFTER REPORTS OF FIGHTING AMI

CNN.com

“Affluenza is a strange malady that affects the children of well-to-do parents. Though having everything money can buy, the children show all the symptoms of abject poverty – depression, anxiety, loss of meaning, and despair for the future. Affluenza accounts for an escape into alcohol, drugs, shoplifting, and suicide among children of the wealthy. It is most often found where parents are absent from the house and try to buy their children’s love” (**Money, Possessions and Eternity**, Alcorn, p. 382).

Materialism

- Many of us have fallen for the lie that being well means being well off. We evaluate ourselves based on our purchasing power.
- Materialism is evident everywhere:
 - Growth of gambling
 - Divorce
 - Infidelity
 - Sleep disorders
 - Pitiful charity
 - Abortion

“Materialism will inevitably produce the kind of society increasingly evident in America – a society of individualism, where people live parallel lives, not meaningfully intersecting with others. A society where independence is the only absolute, where self-interest is the only creed, where convenience and expediency and profitability are the only values. A society where people know the price of everything, but the value of nothing – where people have a great deal to live on, but very little to live for” (Alcorn).

Jesus on Materialism

- Do you rationalize the subtle influence of materialism on your life?
- Luke 12:16-20
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Nobody can serve two masters, so the 21st century Christian cannot have it both ways! Similar to the rich man in Matthew 19:16-22, we must decide what our priority is.

- Indeed, there is a directive in 1 Timothy 5:8, but materialism does not fit into this scripture's definition of proper goals.
- Remember that your blessings come from God, not yourself. Even the hard-working individual (Job) sometimes meets various calamities (Ecclesiastes 9:10-12).

**But I have to work,
don't I?**

The Role Of Television

- **Advertising is an ancient craft, as old as Eve's conversation with the serpent!**
- **Children are particularly susceptible to the lies of advertising.**
- **Television distorts our perception of ourselves. Regardless of weight, social standing, or job title, your ultimate purpose has nothing to do with whatever the television is selling you!**