



CHRISTIANITY Q&A **"What Exactly Is Materialism?" Matthew 6:19-34**

No. 5080

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Ivan Boesky told the graduating class at Berkeley, "I think greed is healthy. You can be greedy and still feel good about yourself." Not many people would openly agree with him, but we all have to struggle with our attitudes to material things.

I. What Is Materialism?

- A. Ancient views that material is evil.
 - 1. Asceticism.
 - 2. Epicureanism.
 - 3. Contradicted by creation and incarnation.
- B. Contemporary views that material is everything.
 - 1. Communism.
 - 2. Capitalism—in many forms.
 - 3. Contradicted by Christ. Luke 12:15
- C. Common view that material is somewhere in between.
 - 1. A matter of "storing." v. 19
 - 2. A matter of "seeing." v. 22
 - 3. A matter of "serving." v. 24
 - 4. A matter of "seeking." v. 32

II. What Is Wrong with Materialism?

- A. It stores the wrong things.
 - 1. Treasures on earth, instead of...
 - 2. Treasures in heaven.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 13:13
 - b. 1 Peter 3:4
 - c. Colossians 3:23
 - d. Luke 16:9
- B. It sees life through wrong lenses.
- C. It serves the wrong master.
 - 1. Either your materials are your God...
 - 2. Or your God is God of your materials.
- D. It seeks the wrong satisfactions.
 - 1. Eating, drinking, wearing, instead of...
 - 2. Kingdom and righteousness.

III. What Should We do About Materialism?

- A. Recognize it – eyes full of light.
- B. Reject it – Who will be master?
- C. Resist it – an ongoing necessity.
 - 1. By trusting in Him – not what He made.
 - 2. By seeing yourself as His – not yours.
 - 3. By handling resources as a steward—not an owner.