# Joy and peace in a consumer culture

*The Spirit's fruit in today's world*

## 1.The claims of consumerism

### Prosperity: How can I prosper in life?

| Consumerism | Gospel |
|---|---|
| *Prosperity is material and comes by consuming more and better* | *Prosperity is relational and comes by a close relationship with God and with others* |

"If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other" **Gal. 5:15**

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" **Gal. 5:22-23**

### Status: How can I be a somebody?

| Consumerism | Gospel |
|---|---|
| *Status is something you buy* | *Status is something you are given by grace through faith in Jesus* |

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious... selfish ambition, dissentions, factions and envy..." **Gal. 5:21**

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" **Gal 3:26**

### Future: Where is life heading?

| Consumerism | Gospel |
|---|---|
| *YOLO ('you only live once')* | *An eternal inheritance is around the corner* |

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir" **Gal. 4:7**

# 2.The cost of consumerism

## • Time and relationships

- Cash rich, time poor (=relationally poor)

## • Environment and equality

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" **James 1:27**

## • God and eternity

"No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money"

**Matthew 6:24**

"I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God"
**Gal 5:21**

# 3.Keeping in step with the Spirit of God, or the spirit of consumerism?

## Two questions to ask

- Have you spiritualized discipleship?
- Have you misapplied your freedom?

## Three mindsets to adopt

- Think relationships
- Think simple (=consume less)
- Think generous (=give more)