

# THE SEIZEN

THE GRIP OF GREED

# Recap

## The Story of Envy

we must be **confronted** with a person (or persons) with a superior/different quality, achievement, or possession

we must **desire** that quality for ourselves, or wish that the other person lacked it.

we must be **pained** by the associated emotion

**Recap**

**Envy's Cure**

**Relational**

**Confess it**

**Expose it**

**Personal**

**Spiritual**

**Release it**

# Recap

“The creature without Christ is **an empty thing**, a lamp without oil, a bone without marrow. **But when Christ is present our cup runs over**, and we eat bread to the full.”

**Charles Spurgeon**

# Greed: The Ultimate Addiction, Leon F Seltzer Ph.D.

What connects the various addictions is that **enough is never enough**—not for long anyway. As addicts progress (or rather, regress) into their addiction, to derive sufficient gratification they must constantly seek more and more of their drug of choice. **For “more” is the keyword of addiction.** It doesn't matter whether they're addicted to a substance, relationship, or activity—the “ante” for getting enough of the object of their craving must continually be raised.

# The American Paradox: Spiritual Hunger in an Age of Plenty, David G. Myers

"Compared with their grandparents, today's young adults have grown up with much **more affluence, slightly less happiness and much greater risk of depression and assorted social pathology,**"

**If we reject some conduct but rarely admit an example, we enjoy the benefit of being high-minded without the burden of moral restraint.**

**We also embolden that behaviour, which proceeds with a presumptive blessing. As a matter of public discourse and polite conversation, “Greed” is unlikely to be “Good” anytime soon, but a vice need not become a virtue for the end result to look the same.**

**John Paul Rollert**

**Pride is a process**

**Envy is a relationship**

**Greed is an addiction**

# What is Greed?

**Greed is an inappropriate attitude toward things of value, built on the mistaken judgment that my well-being is tied to the sum of my possessions.** Greed is more than mistaken belief —as if knowing a few more facts would somehow solve the problem. It also involves emotions (perhaps longing, unfulfillment, fear) and attitudes (a sense of entitlement, rivalry). Greed alienates us from **God**, from our **neighbour**, and from our **true self**.

**Greed is the hidden thief**

**greed robs us of ourselves**

**We cannot be in authentic relationships if we are in the pursuit of something to satisfy our divine hunger**

# How We Live

**On average Canadians spend 24.5 hours online per week (Media Technology Monitor, 2017)**

**Canadians in the 25-to-34 demographic were seen to be spending the most time online, 34 hours**

# How We Spend

Vacations \$2931 (Ontario, CIBC, 2013)

Alcohol/Tobacco \$955 (Stats Can, 2015)

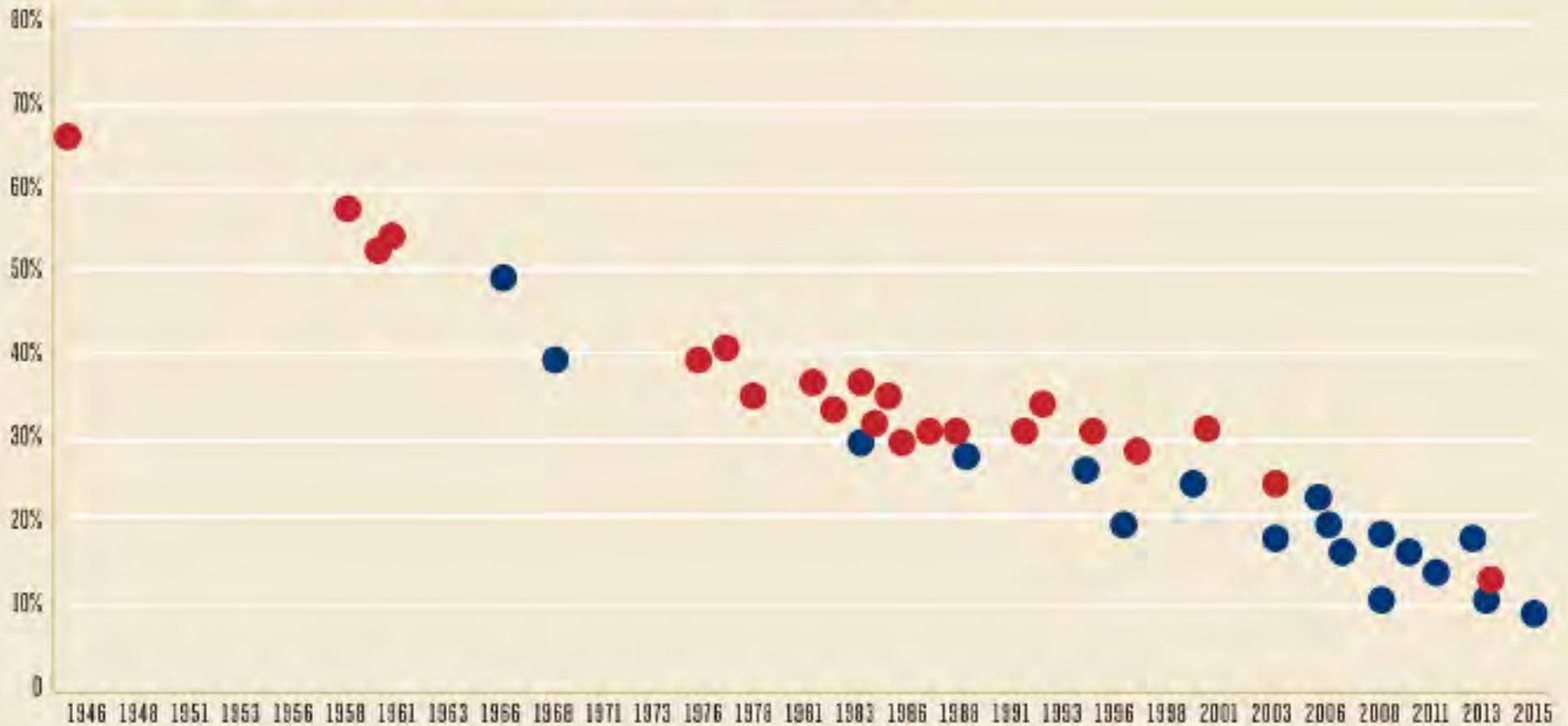
Recreation \$1975 (Stats Can, 2015)

Family Cell Phone \$2436 (CRTC, 2015)

Charitable Giving \$1004, 0.81% (Stats Can 2014)

# How We Worship

Figure 1. Weekly religious service attendance in Canada, 1946 to 2015



SOURCE: PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS AND GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEYS

● Attended religious services in the last 7 days

● Weekly attendance at religious services

2003 20%, 2013 13%

# Greed Robs Us of Ourselves

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' **But you do not realize** that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

**Revelation 3:17**

When we look to something else to satisfy us we are pursuing not becoming

**greed robs us of community**

# Greed Robs Us of Community

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a **trap** and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **1 Timothy 6:9**

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and **they are full of greed.** **Ephesians 4:18-19**

# Generosity's Mask

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? **Even sinners love those who love them.** And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? **Even sinners do that.” Luke 6:32-33**

**greed robs us of God**

# Greed Robs us of God

Jesus talked much about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing **one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money.** The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than **2,000 verses on money and possessions.**

**Howard L. Dayton, Jr., Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 2.**

# Greed Robs us of God

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and **greed, which is idolatry**. **Colossians 3:5**

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an **idolater**—has any **inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God**. **Ephesians 5:5**

**Our resource allocation isn't about what we own or have, but about what we think is important**

**When faith becomes an abstraction then there are no requirements placed on us**

**We are greedy because we are empty**



**You're Richer Than You Think**

**Time, Talent, Treasure**

# A Life of Generosity

**Remember this:** Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, **not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in **many expressions of thanks to God. vs 12**