

Be Different

“But I Need It!”

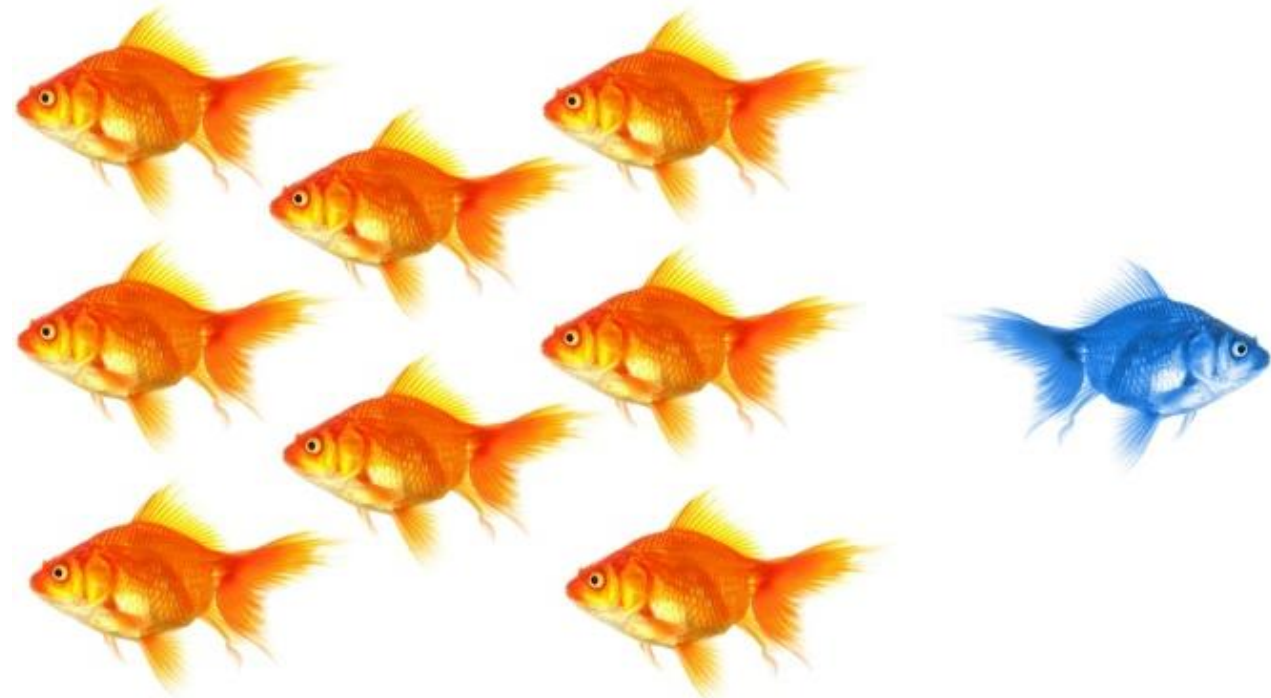
Called to Be Different

Rom 12:1–2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² **Do not be conformed to this world,** but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The Patterns of this World

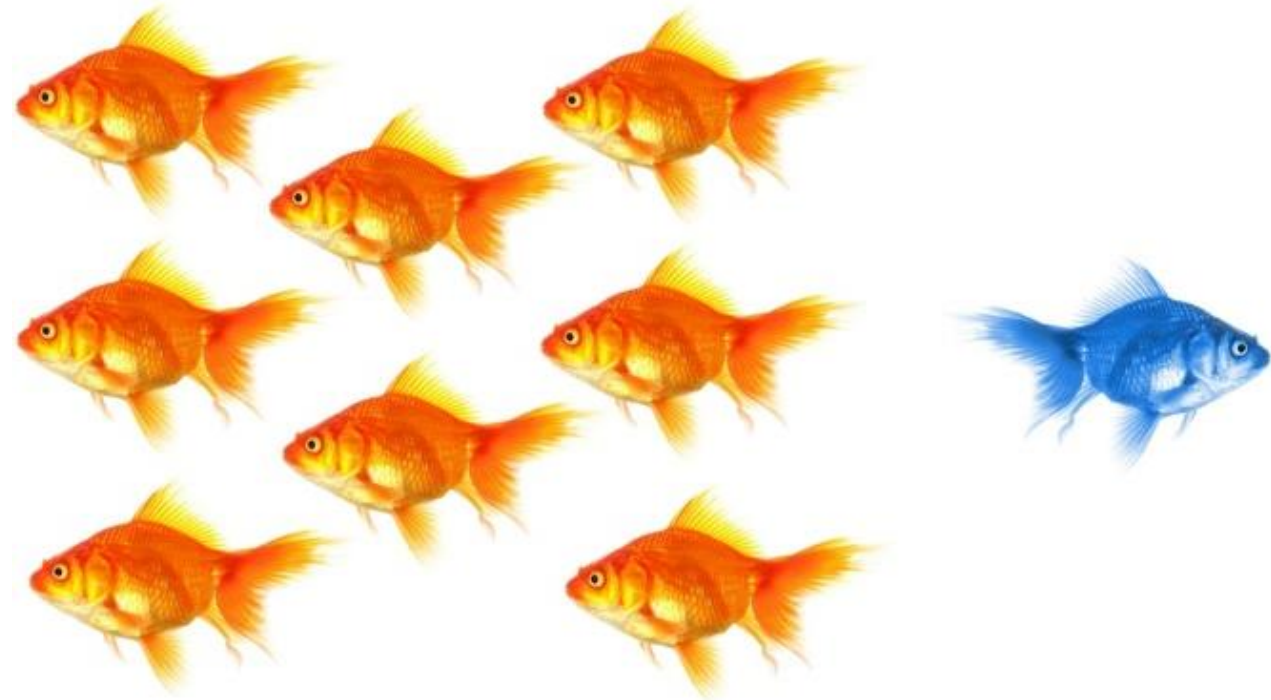
A Worldview

“a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart... which we hold about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.” –James Sire



The Patterns of this World

- Worldviews can exercise subtle influence over our lives.
- Easier to see in others than in our own lives.



Consumerism



- An ideology/philosophy that encourages the acquisition of goods and services in ever-increasing amounts.
- Our needs can be satisfied by what we consume.

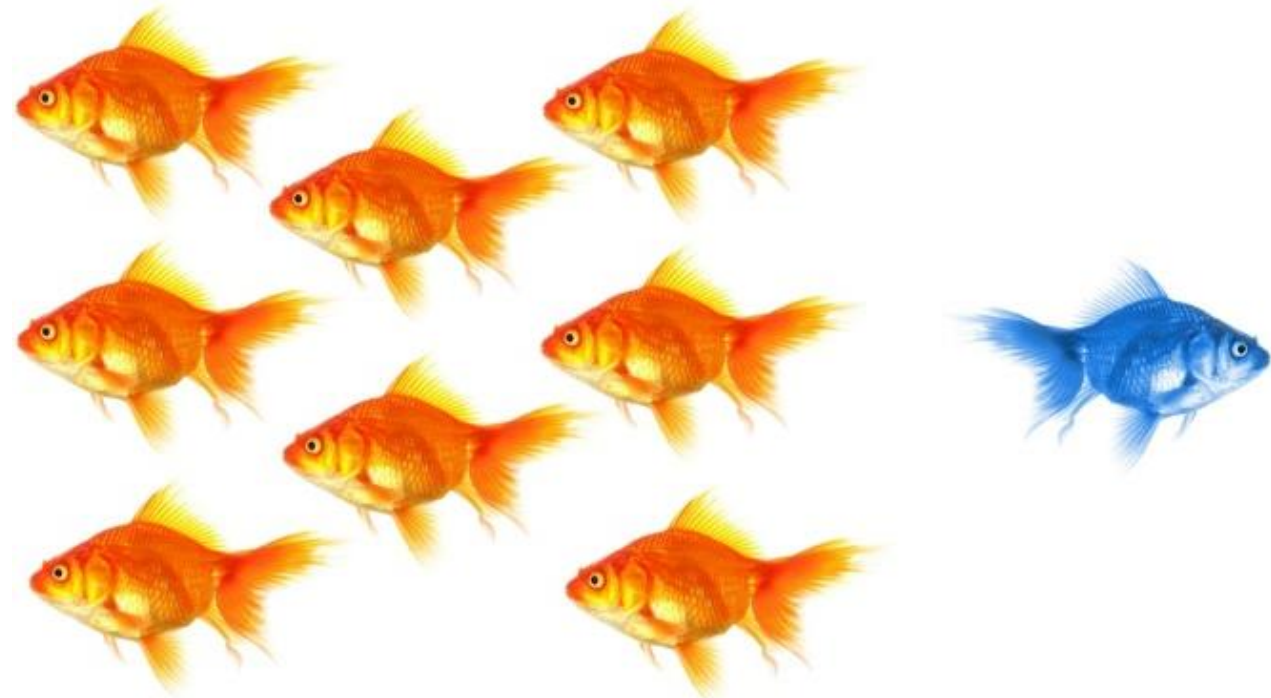
Consumerism can be great for the economy but detrimental to our souls.

Key Beliefs of Consumerism

- Accumulating and Using things brings fulfillment.
- Power or status is found in what we attain.
- We discard what ceases to fulfill or meet my needs.

Where Consumerism Falls Short

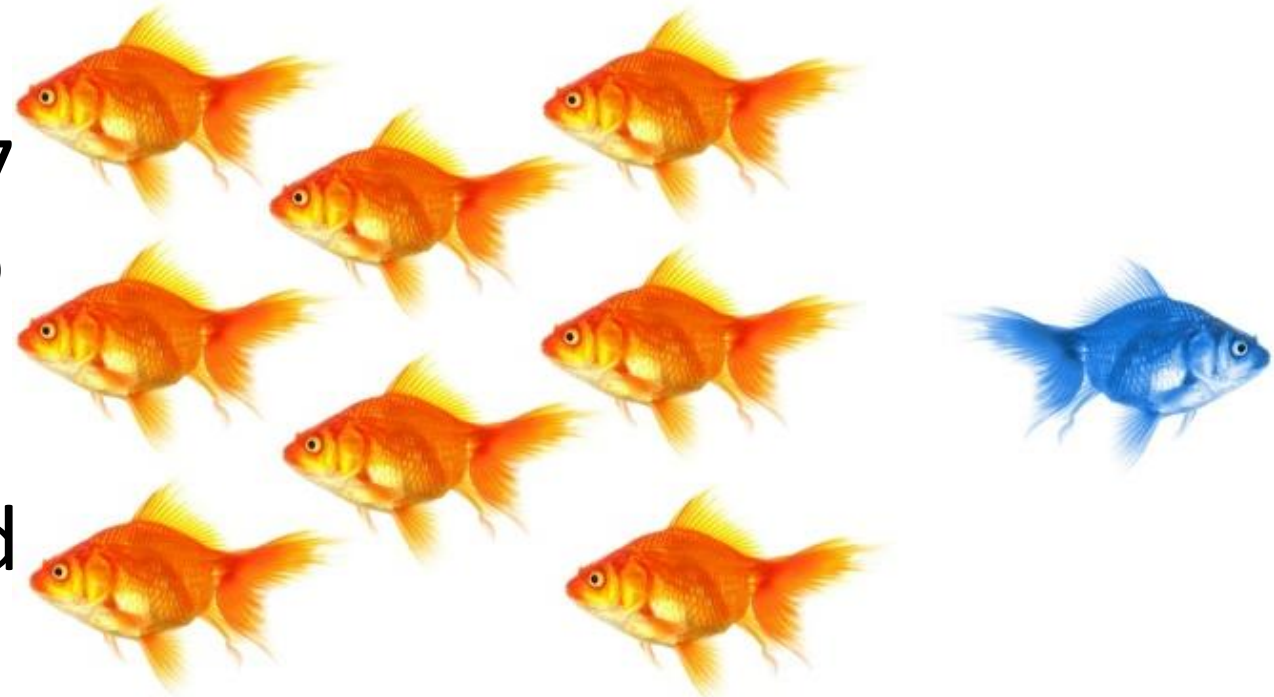
- “A little bit more” is never enough.
- People are viewed as objects to consume.
- Our values are redefined.
(What we’re afraid of losing = what we value.)



Contentment

1 Timothy 6:6–8

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.



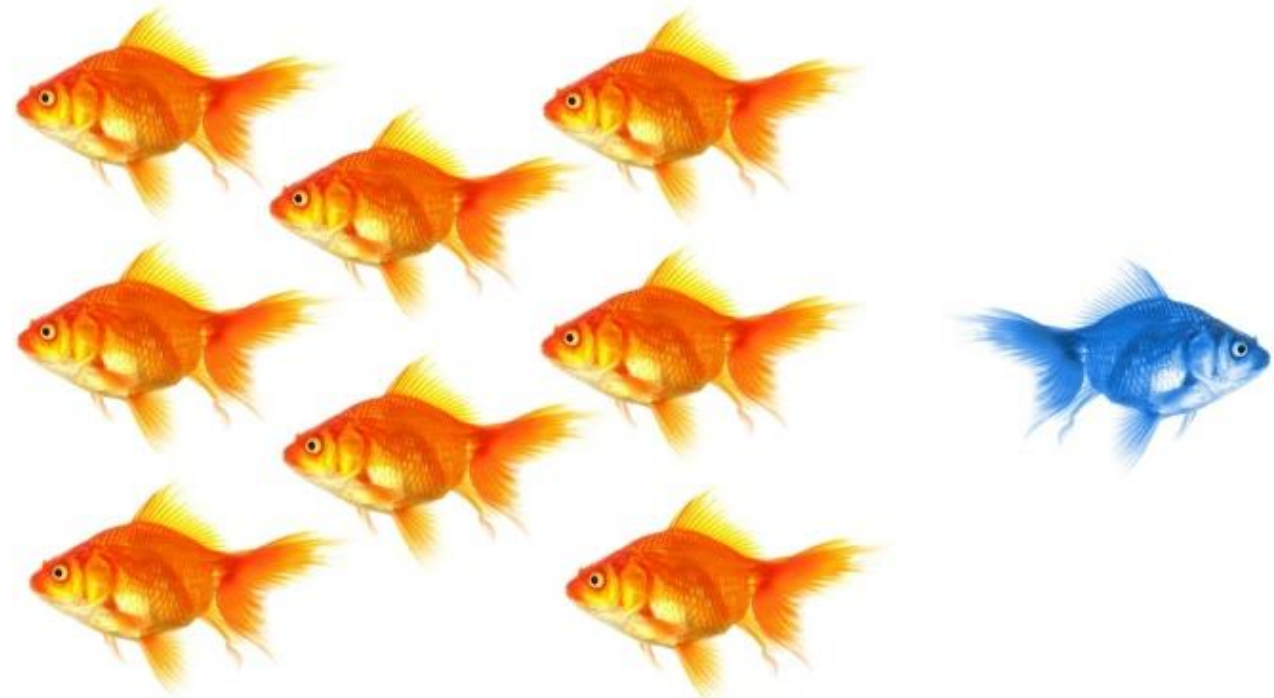
Contentment

Feeling or showing satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation. (Webster)

What we have is enough...

It's not having what you want
It's wanting what you've got

-Sheryl Crow



Contentment

Philippians 4:11–13

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am **to be content**. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Contentment



Hebrews 13:5

5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Matthew 6:33

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Practical Steps in Pursuing Contentment

- Set Limits – Allow Margin
- Make decisions about spending/consuming in the presence of God.
- Be a good steward/manager of what you have.
- Evaluate your values. (God, Family, Friends, Serving Others)
- Invite someone to hold you accountable.