

(4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

In the book *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give More Money* by Smith and Emerson they indicate one of the largest influences on giving is how *Mass Consumerism* dominates Christian life.

Think about how many messages you receive during a television show or how many advertisements are in your favorite magazine. Now compare that with the number of stewardship messages you hear in a year. Mass Consumerism powerfully shapes our perceptions and decisions and we are bombarded with those messages.

Some of the influences of Mass Consumerism include:

- \* *Focusing attention away from our blessings and our abundance to what we don't have and what we "need."*
- \* *Setting up a system of "permanent discontent." We are never content with what we already have.*
- \* *That we feel poor when we are compared to rich.*
- \* *Then household and consumer decisions come first, giving and ability to give come second.*

God has entrusted us as caretakers of our abundance and we have been richly blessed. As stewards we choose how we live, not how someone else says we should live, so we can return some of our blessings as gifts.



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