

Soul Project – Materialism (20 points)

The United States is a wealthy country. We are affluent. In addition, we consume products that have a high technological impact on God's creation. So, how do you plan to use matter? What are your material goals? The **purpose** of this soul project is for you to allow the Holy Spirit to evaluate the role of materialism in your life. You will do this in light of Scripture and the content that you have learned in this class.

1. **Preliminary:** Before you start this Soul Project, do the following:

- Complete the assigned reading in your text.
- Answer all the study guide questions on Matter: A Primer, Matter: Environmental Hazards and Human Health, and Matter: Solid and Hazardous Waste. In addition, Miller had a model showing how population, affluence, and technology affect the environmental impact of a population in Chapter 1. Review this material. Attach your study guides to the back of your soul project. Twenty five percent of your grade will be given for your study guide notes.
- Review your notes from our class.
- Read the material, "An Introduction to Soul Projects/ What is a Soul Project?" that I have posted.

2. Start your soul project after you have completed all the preliminary material. Set aside a minimum of one hour for this activity. Take your Bible and a notebook or computer and find a place that is quiet and free from distractions. Copy the following header onto the top right corner of your page and record your starting time:

Name:

Box:

Soul Project Title:

Date(s) Worked:

Time Started:

Ended:

Total Time Spent:

Make a journal of your thoughts as you progress through the steps below.

(Record the titles to these steps in your journal so that I can find your answers.) Please do not write what you think I want to hear. Record your thoughts as you work through this soul project. I alone will read this. Share only what you feel comfortable sharing. Seventy five percent of your grade will come from the quality of your journal.

3. **Your Material Desires:** What "things" do you want to acquire? Do you want to own a **house**? How big? How costly? In what type of neighborhood? How will it be furnished? How will you heat it? What appliances will you buy? What will be the basis of your decision to buy one version of an appliance over another? Is energy efficiency important to you as you look for a house? Do you want to own a **car**? What factors will determine the type of car that you want to buy? Model type? Looks? Car age? How much will it cost? How important is gas mileage in making your decision? How many miles will you drive each year? What type of things do you want to do for **recreation and hobbies**? How much will this cost? How much **money** (cash, stocks, bonds, etc.) do you want to have saved? How much do you plan to give to the Lord's work? What **other things** do you want to own? **Include this material in your write-up.**

4. Complete the "Ecological Footprint Quiz" here <http://www.myfootprint.org/>. Print the last page. **Include it in your write-up.**
5. **Invocation:** Quiet your soul before the Lord. (Psalm 46:10a NIV "Be still, and know that I am God.") Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word to you, to prompt you to remember what He wants you to remember, and to convict you of sin.
6. **Lectio (reading):** I have given you several Scriptural passages. You may read as many or as few of these as you choose, and you may do these in any order. Read slowly and thoughtfully: Mt 6:19-34 (Treasures in heaven and Do not worry); Luke 12:14-21 (The parable of the rich fool); Col 3:1,2 (Set your minds on things above); 1 Tim 6: 6-11, 17-19 (Love of money). Consider reading them repeatedly or reading it aloud.
7. **Meditatio (meditation):** Meditate on the passages. Perhaps you have read or heard these passages many times. If so, then try to look at them as if you were doing so for the first time. What is God trying to teach you from His word about materialism?
8. **Contemplatio (contemplation):** How do these passages relate to *your life*? What is the Holy Spirit teaching you about this area of your life? Does He want to change your thinking and to renew your mind (Romans 12:2?) How? Does He want you to change your attitudes? How? Does He want you to change your actions? How? Is there anything else that He wants you to do?
9. **Oratio (prayer):** Pray the passage back to God. Where appropriate, offer up praise, thanksgiving, confession, and/or supplication.