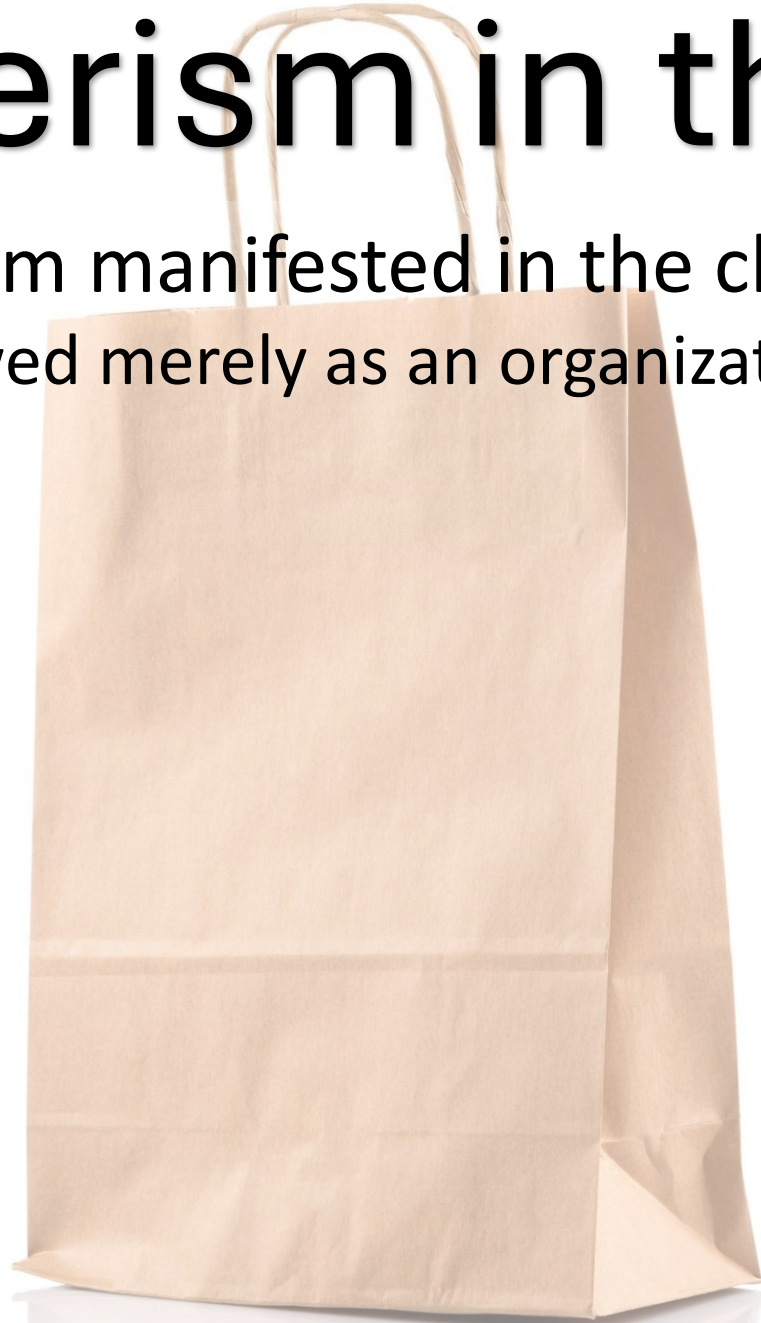


Consumerism in the Church

- How is consumerism manifested in the church?
 - The church is viewed merely as an organization



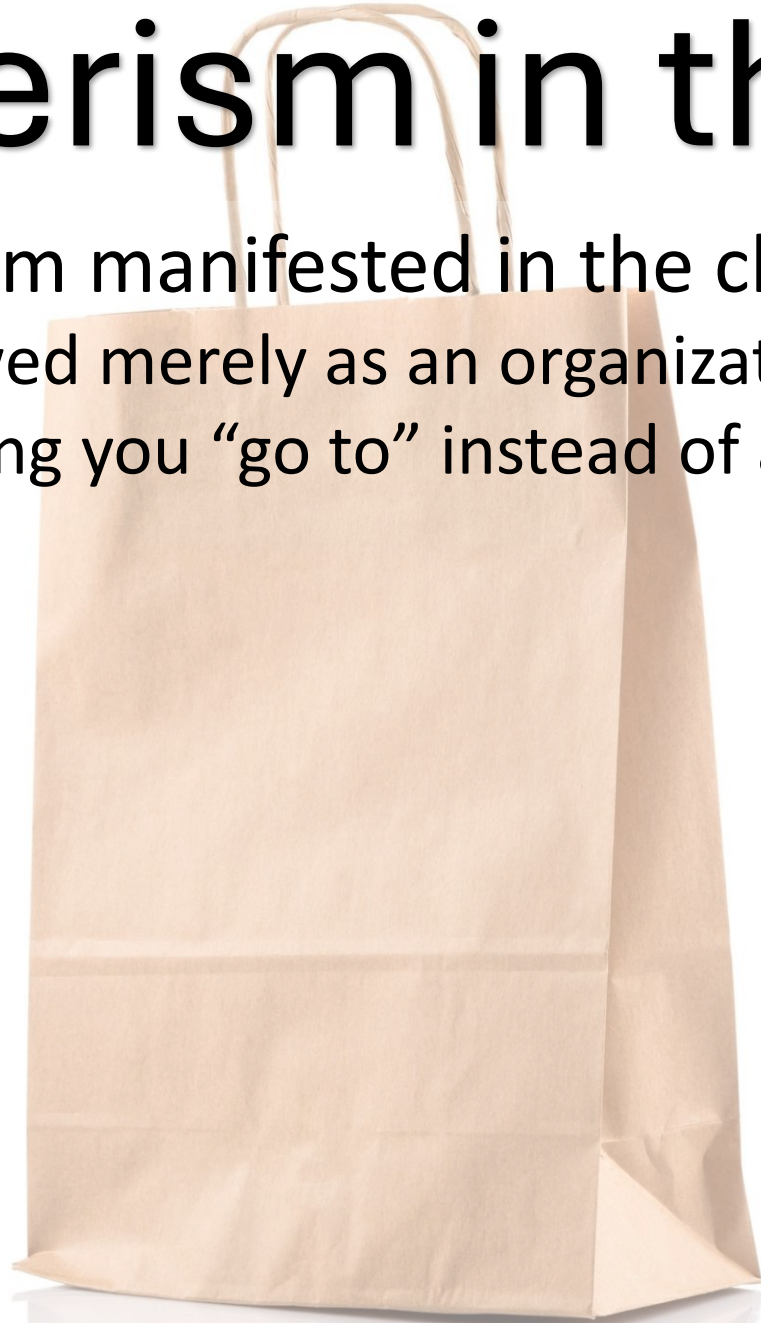
Philippians 1:1 (NKJV)

“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:”



Consumerism in the Church

- How is consumerism manifested in the church?
 - The church is viewed merely as an organization
 - Church is something you “go to” instead of are a “part of”



I Corinthians 11:18 (NKJV)

“For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.”



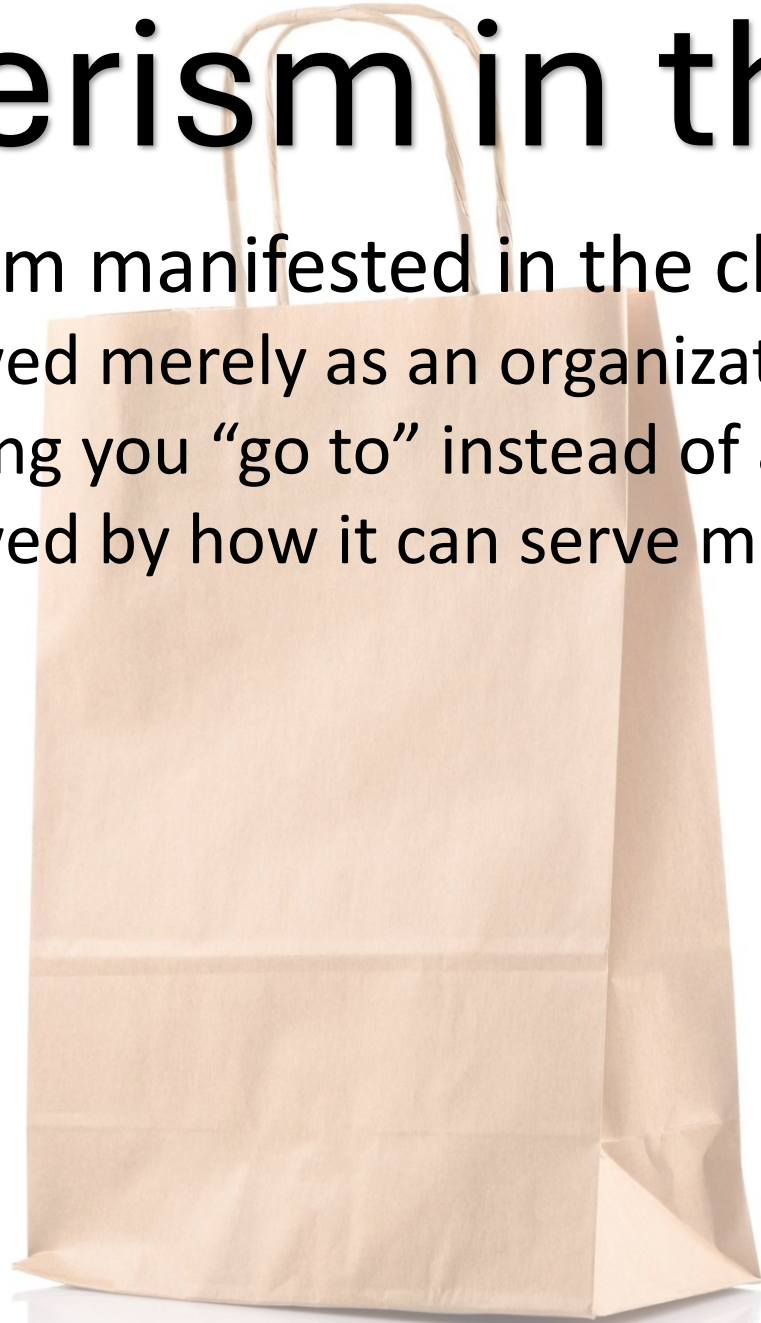
I Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV)

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”



Consumerism in the Church

- How is consumerism manifested in the church?
 - The church is viewed merely as an organization
 - Church is something you “go to” instead of are a “part of”
 - The church is viewed by how it can serve me



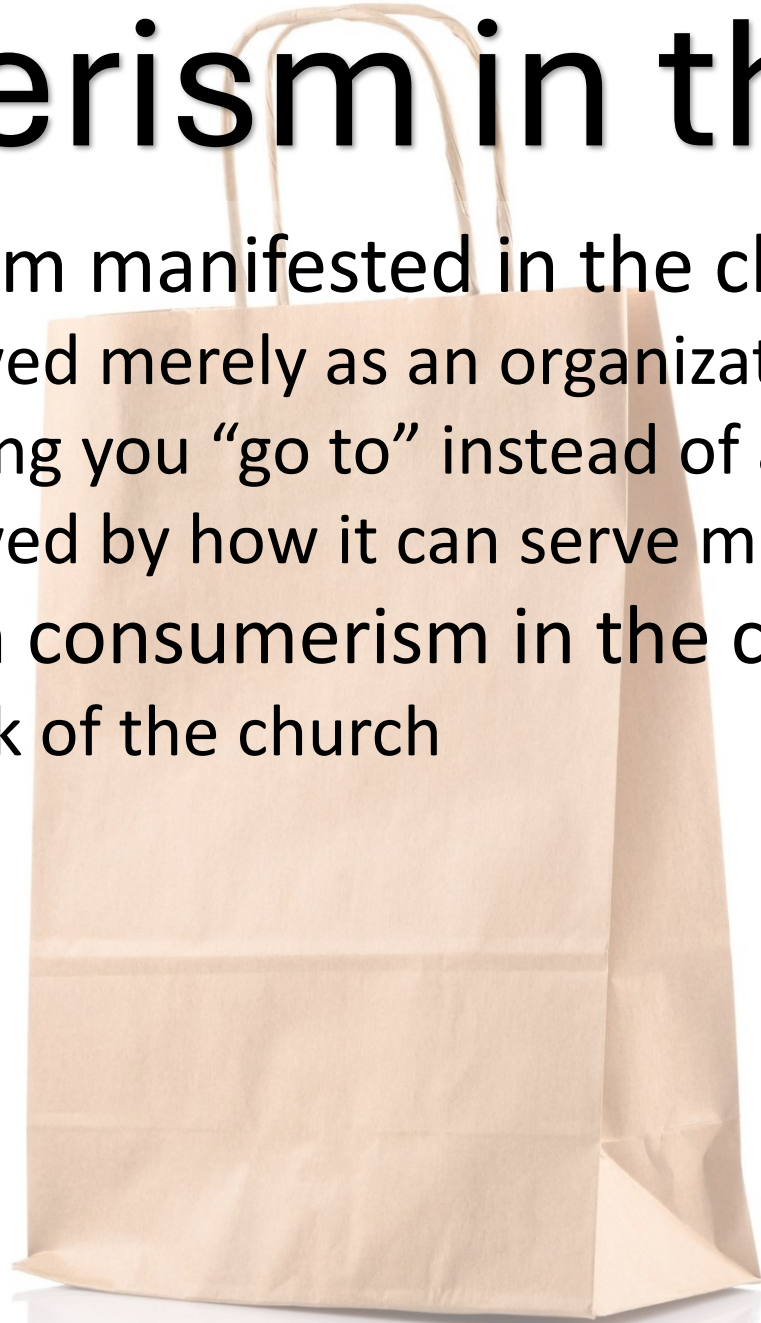
III John 9 (NKJV)

“I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.”



Consumerism in the Church

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 - The church is viewed merely as an organization
 - Church is something you “go to” instead of are a “part of”
 - The church is viewed by how it can serve me
- What’s wrong with consumerism in the church?
 - It hinders the work of the church



I Corinthians 12:14-27 (NKJV)

“For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”



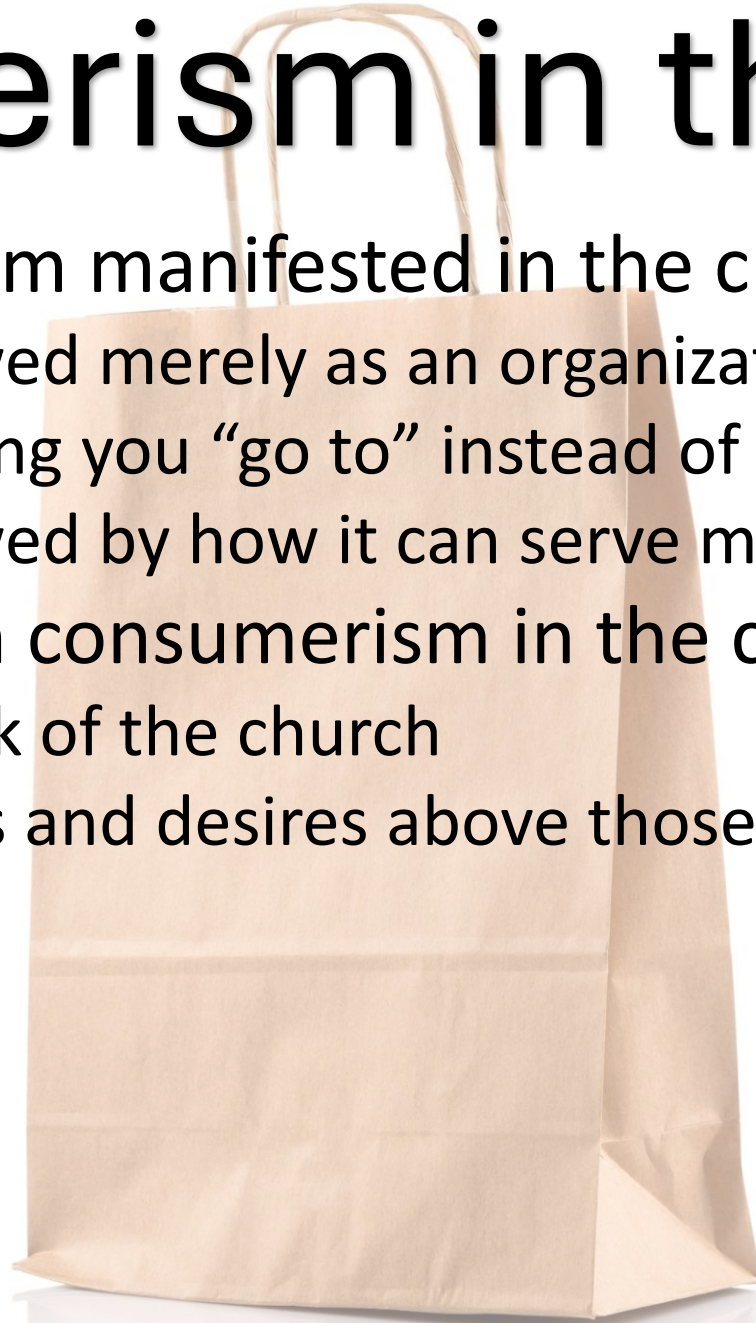
Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”



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 - The church is viewed by how it can serve me
- What’s wrong with consumerism in the church?
 - It hinders the work of the church
 - It places my needs and desires above those of others



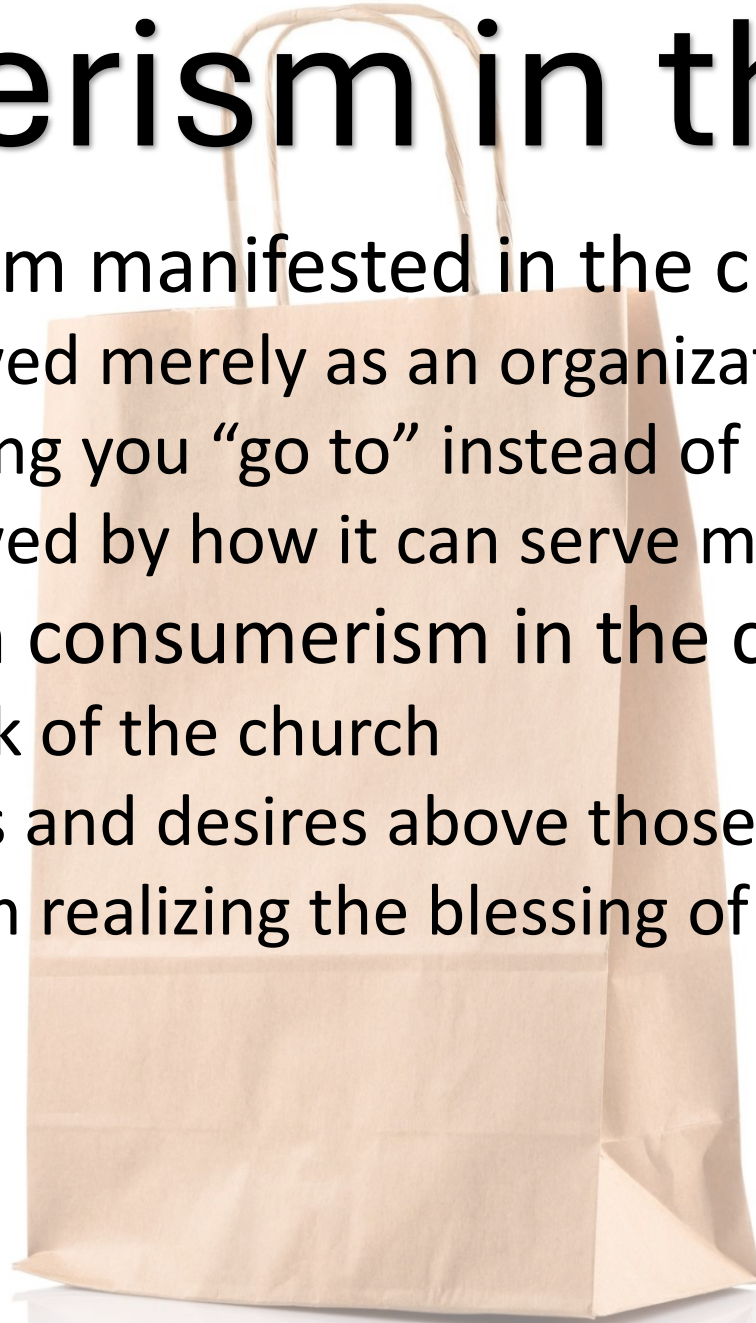
Philippians 2:3-7 (NKJV)

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”



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 - It hinders the work of the church
 - It places my needs and desires above those of others
 - It prevents us from realizing the blessing of serving others



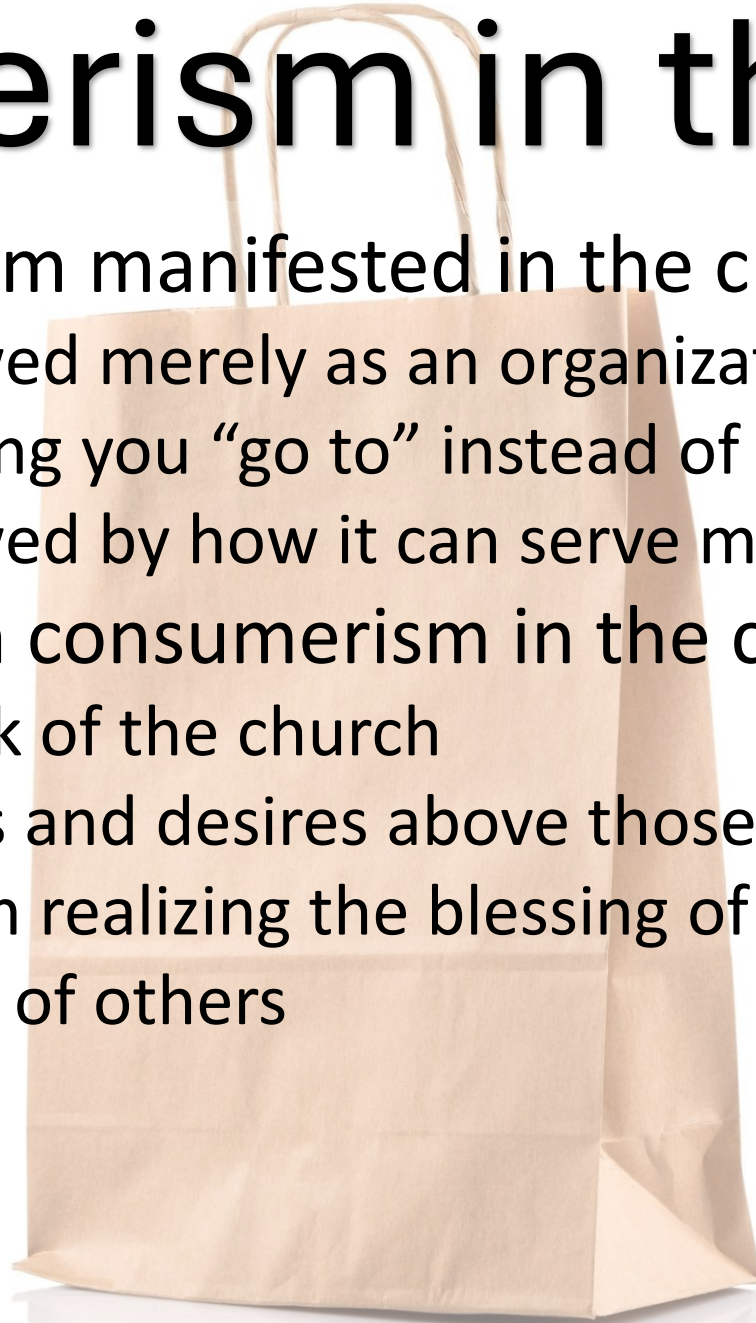
Mark 10:42-45 (NKJV)

“But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. “And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.””



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 - It takes advantage of others



Luke 6:31 (NKJV)

“And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”



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 - It prevents us from realizing the blessing of serving others
 - It takes advantage of others
 - It is a discouragement

II Thessalonians 3:11 (NKJV)

“For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.”



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 - It places my desires above Gods’

Malachi 1:6-10 (NKJV)

“A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' "You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.”



Matthew 15:8,9 (NKJV)

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”



Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”



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Consumerism in the Church

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