

BREAKTHROUGH

Consumer or Contributor?

Scriptures: Eph. 2:10; Rom. 12:6-8; Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:15-17; Phil. 2:4-8)

1. How would you define the Consumer Society? It has been suggested that in Britain we don't consume to live, but we live to consume. Have you observed changes in your lifetime toward consumerism?
2. Steve suggested that when a consumer mentality encroaches church life, we need to ask ourselves some serious questions. In which way might this occur and what are the dangers?
3. "A disciple is someone who has moved from being a recipient of the church's mission to being responsible for the church's mission." What are your thoughts about this statement?
4. Take a few minutes to chat through the following statements:
 - ***A consumer comes to be served, a contributor come to serve*** (See Matthew 20:20-28)
 - ***A consumer is 'entitled', a contributor is grateful*** (What did Steve suggest was the antidote of 'entitlement'? Why should this be so?)
 - ***A consumer points a finger when there are problems, a contributor looks to encourage and inspire.*** (Why do consumers expect perfection? Why is this unhelpful? Do you have a sense of ownership and responsibility towards our church's mission?)
 - ***A consumer focuses on their preferences, a contributor focuses on the needs of others*** (See Phil. 2:4-8)
5. Rick Warren, in his book *Purpose Driven Church*, offers the following diagram. The closer you get to the centre the more of a contributor you are within your church. The closer to the outer ring, the more of a consumer you are.



Which sector best describes your relationship to your church? What do you feel is your challenge?