



Advent Conspiracy: Spend Less
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What if Christmas was a relational event rather than a consumer event?

The Advent Conspiracy is a movement of churches and individuals that conspires to restore the true meaning of birth of Jesus Christ to Christmas from the consumerism and commercial Christmas that is ultimately meaningless and debt-ridden. For more information and greater detail go to <http://www.adventconspiracy.org/> and <http://www.rethinkingchristmas.com/>.

The Advent Conspiracy has four central principles: **Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All.** This week is Week Two: **Spend Less**

Spend Less is ambiguous: Spend less than last year? Spend less than my neighbor? Spend less than the average American who spends \$1,000 on Christmas Gifts?

- I. How can you tell when you have too much? Who determines what you “need”? Can any of us escape the conclusion that we have too much? How many coats do you need?

The challenge is to balance our desires with the needs in our communities and the rest of the world.

1. Shopping will become less about entertainment and more about necessities
2. Researching purchases may become more complicated than we originally thought?
 - a) Are we supporting businesses that treat their employees well or do they advocate causes that you believe in?
 - b) What about the environmental consequences of the purchases you make?
 - c) Is it healthy to give our children whatever they want? Does it build character?
 - d) Does it take money to love?

- II. Is Spending Less Wrong?

Someone said this to me last year: You cannot advocate that people spend less because America is a consumer economy and if we do not spend, then businesses will close and people will lose their jobs. Aren't we making the problem worse?

1. Theory of debt-financed consumer economy is flawed – bondage and top get over
2. Bad debt is rarely in my self-interest

- III. Spend Less, Except When You Should Spend More – spend compassionately and responsibly regardless of economic condition.

1. Purchase to keep someone employed – a friend needed the money for her business
2. Give to causes that help people and need your help, Church Health Center, Living Water
3. Give to your house and place of worship as an expression of your thanksgiving to God