

## **Gula: consumption to control**

**Phil 3:18-20** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

## **Freedom from Want**

**Franklin Roosevelt** in his State of the Union address in January 1941 put fourth what is commonly called the four freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear of physical aggression

What does he mean by freedom from want?

“As of Sept. 30, 2009, the national debt was almost \$12 trillion and interest on that debt was \$383 billion for the year, according to the Treasury Department's Bureau of the Public Debt. The Congressional Budget Office on Oct. 7 estimated the 2009 budget deficit to be almost \$1.4 trillion - Washington street journal

**The freedom from want has given way to excessive behavior the pursuit of happiness has found its outlet in consumption”**

**America is home to the most obese people in the world. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), obesity in adults has increased by 60% within the past twenty years and obesity in children has tripled in the past thirty years. A staggering 33% of American adults are obese and obesity-related deaths have climbed to more than 300,000 a year, second only to tobacco-related deaths.**

**Consumerism: America's Religion**

**We have become participants of the pleasure economy in the age of surplus**

**The sin of gluttony in its excess and perversion has given us a world full of garbage driven by mass consumption and mass waste. It has eradicated the proud craftsman and has produced the miserable factory worker. It has delivered us over to the power of the machine.**

**We in our selfish age of mass production and mass consumption demand our rights no longer a freedom from want but a freedom to want as much as we want**

“Whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things”

**The great curse of gluttony is that it ends by destroying all sense of the precious, the unique, the irreplaceable**

**Thomas Aquinas: 5 facets of Gluta  
Too Soon, Too Expensive, Too Much, To Eagerly**

### **1. Praepropere - too soon**

**Driven by want rather than need**

**Pr 23:2** And put a knife to your throat If you *are* a man given to appetite.

**Indulgence is satisfying desires at the wrong time in the wrong way**

### **We Need Contentment!**

**1Ti 6:6** Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

**Give us what we need Lord**

**Proverbs 30:7-9** Two *things* I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-- Feed me with

the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny *You*, And say, “Who *is* the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.

**Are you discontented?**

### **2. Laute: too expensive**

**Driven by extravagance rather than simplicity**

**Pr 23:3** Do not desire his delicacies, For they *are* deceptive food.

**Our sense on entitlement leads to our demands for the best**

**We consume more than we can afford we have a tendency to live beyond the perimeters of our livelihood**

**Economy is more romantic than extravagance.  
Thrift is poetic because it is creative  
Frivolousness is un-poetic because it is waste**

**We find ourselves paraphrasing Augustine:  
Sed Noli Modo!**

**“Give me frugality oh Lord, but not yet”**

### **We Need Simplicity!**

**Ac 2:44-46** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

**The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak**

**Where are you extravagant in your living?**

### **3. Nimis: too much**

**Driven by excess rather than control**

**Lu 21:34** “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be **weighed down** with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

**Quantity not quality is the all round ideal. Bigness is the American idol**

**We seem to do everything but love too much.**

**The United States has more malls than high schools;**

**We Need Self Control!**

**Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful. ~William Morris**

**Ps 141:4** Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies.

**What do you do too much?**

### **4. Ardenter: too eagerly**

**Driven by impulse rather than patience**

**Did you know that American consumer credit debt reached \$972 billion at the end of 2008? The average amount of credit card debt per household was over \$8,000**

**Heb 12:16-17** lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

**We need Patience!**

**Lu 21:19** “By your patience possess your souls.

Take everything before Lord involve Him in your decision making

### 5. Studiose - too much fuss

Driven by selfishness rather than thankfulness

**Numbers 11:4-6** Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!"

**Ps 78:18** And they tested God in their heart By asking for the food of their fancy.

**Our selfishness removes gratitude**

**2Ti 3:2** For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

**We need thankfulness!**

**1Ti 4:4** For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with **thanksgiving**

Are you a complainer?

Closing Are you:

Driven by want rather than need

Driven by extravagance rather than simplicity

Driven by excess rather than control

Driven by impulse rather than patience

Driven by selfishness rather than thankfulness

**Christ is our need be focused on Him let us take all our thoughts captive unto Him be patient and thank Him daily for He is the source of our victory**

**If you are going be consumed with anything be consumed with Him**

**Eph 3:19** to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may **be filled with all the fullness of God.**

**Eph 5:18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit,**

**Col 1:9** **be filled with the knowledge of His will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

**2Ti 1:4** **be filled with joy,**