



Depth Perception™

Commentary from Design For Ministry™
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Consume to create 30 October 2004

One person runs, consuming calories in order to improve their lung capacity, to lower their resting heart rate, and to improve their metabolism. Another person avoids running because it saps all the energy they have for that day, because they risk a heart attack, or because joints no longer cooperate.

Those who consume to create are like runners. Resources used create other resources. Money is invested for a rate of return rather than just to be spent. Charitably given money is for a specific ministering result rather than just looking good in front of one's peers. Homes and cars are purchased for practical use rather than as symbols of status or trophies that attest to consumptive power. The momentum of each resource used continues

beyond the user instead of being hoarded.

For a long time, many Christian traditions avoided the "running" approach to resources and were opposed to consumption. Ridiculously, some even promoted conservation of resources to the degree they were withheld from those who needed them most.

Example: Dieting consumes less food, but does not feed hungry people.

Example: Protecting an existing forest does not plant new trees or assist the development of low-cost housing.

Example: Cause-related boycotting may change company policy and even drive a company out of the marketplace, but the incomes of families and the surrounding community are also affected.

It is time for the Christian community to begin running again.

- mark l. vincent

