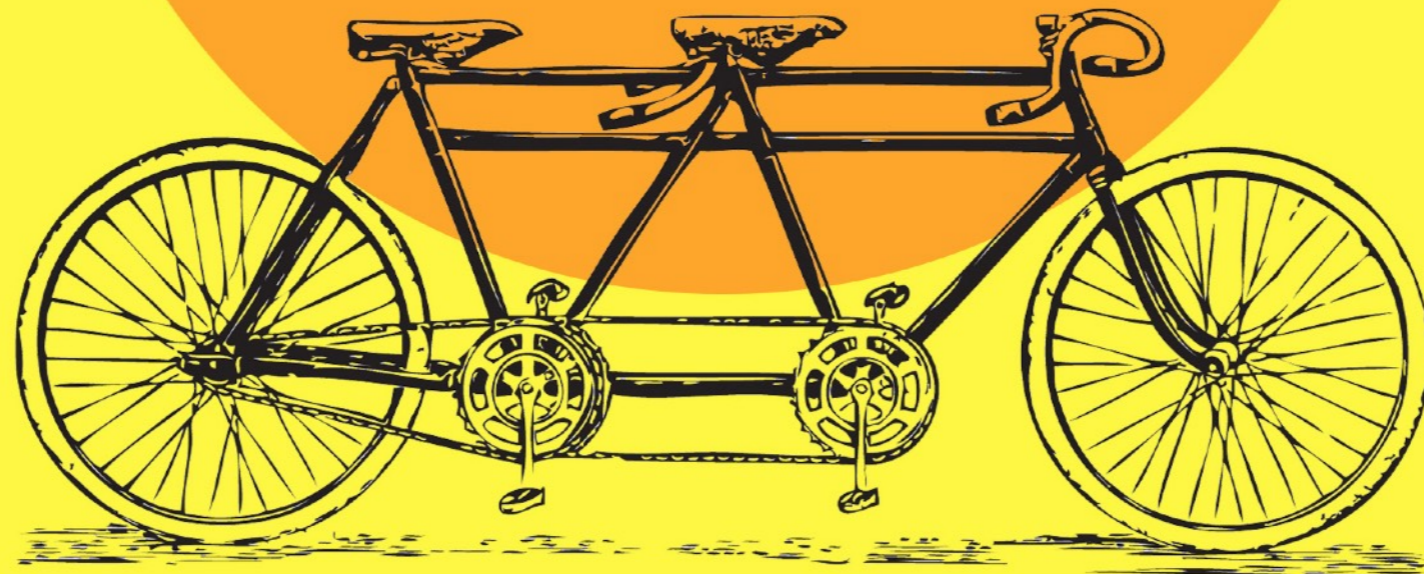


BETTER
TOGETHER





The
Theory
of
Moral
Sentiments



ADAM
SMITH



The Commercialized Child and the New Consumer Culture

Juliet B. Schor

Bestselling author of *The Overspent American*
and *The Overworked American*



"We worry about so many dangers to our children—drugs, perverts, bullies—but seldom notice the biggest menace of all: the multibillion-dollar marketing effort aimed at turning the kids into oversexed, status-obsessed, attention-deficient little consumers. Like her earlier books, Juliet Schor's *Born to Buy* is a brilliant exposé and call to action."
—Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed*

- In 2014 Americans spent \$10 Trillion on “consumer goods”
- iPhone 8/8s/X is coming!!
- We often approach church with the same consumeristic mindset
 - We judge the “product” on Sundays to decide on level of “buy in”
 - It’s all a cost/benefit analysis



- Consumerism isn't only the desire for something new or shiny
 - It's often the desire for something more, something else
- The great contest for the early Church was between Caesar and Christ:
 - Today's contest might be between Consumerism and Christ as King



- Christianity frees us to be who God made us to be (identity)
- It also frees us to/recreates us to/demands that we become distributors and not just consumers!
- Knowing who we are in Christ frees us to be better together
- Knowing our gifts empowers us to be better together



1 Corinthians 12:1–13

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.



1 Corinthians 12:1–13 (continued)

11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.



- We learn several things immediately:
 - Every Christian receives spiritual gifts
 - Spiritual gifts are supernatural gifts that are given to empower us to meet the needs of others and to build the Church
 - Diversity in the gifts must be valued
 - Probably more of a matrix than a singular gift
 - Gifts and commands to action are not the same thing



- Read every text about the gifts in context
- The Corinthians wanted significance through their spiritual gifts—Paul said to stop that!
- Some people now want to make the entire point of Christianity to be about spiritual gifts and experience
 - Paul says that is all immaturity
 - God has set himself against my pride; why would he give me things for the purpose of making me prideful?
- The gifts are given to the Church—not you!
 - When you are isolated, you cut yourself off from the gifts that God has given to someone else that you need!



- What are the spiritual gifts?
- At least 6 lists with around 22 gifts in all
- Word of wisdom—knowing how to apply God’s Word to daily decisions/actions
- Word of knowledge—clear understanding of the Word and able to tell someone else with clarity
 - These are NOT new revelations/on par with Scripture
- Faith—all faith is a gift; this person has a strong and unshakeable trust in God even when circumstances do not line up
- Healing—probably connected to prayer and faith; strong faith that this person will be healed



1 Corinthians 12:31

31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.



- Love governs all of this
 - It's a more excellent way to be the Church
- Is our biggest problem that we don't know our gifts or that we don't love one another well (like in Chapter 13)?
- Spiritual gifts can be dangerous without love
- The Bible isn't the undercard for the Big Event when the Spirit shows up and we experience the spiritual heebie-jeebies!
 - Scripture must speak to us most powerfully and move us more permanently than any other words or experience!



Psalm 40:1–3

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction,

out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,

and put their trust in the Lord.



1 Peter 1:6–8

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

