

Sermon Series



The Sermon On The Mount





Contempt



Contempt + Consumption

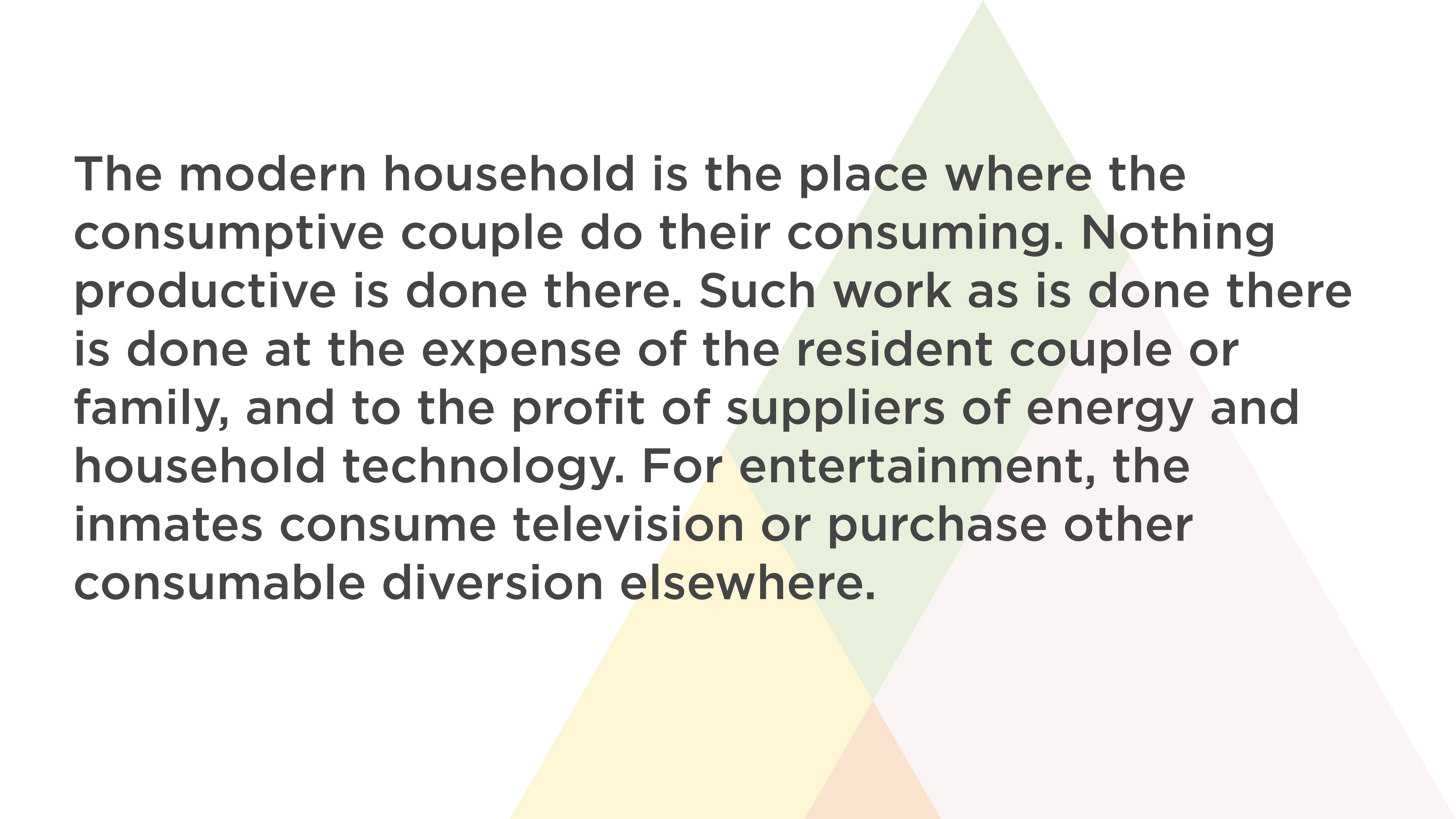


Contempt + Consumption

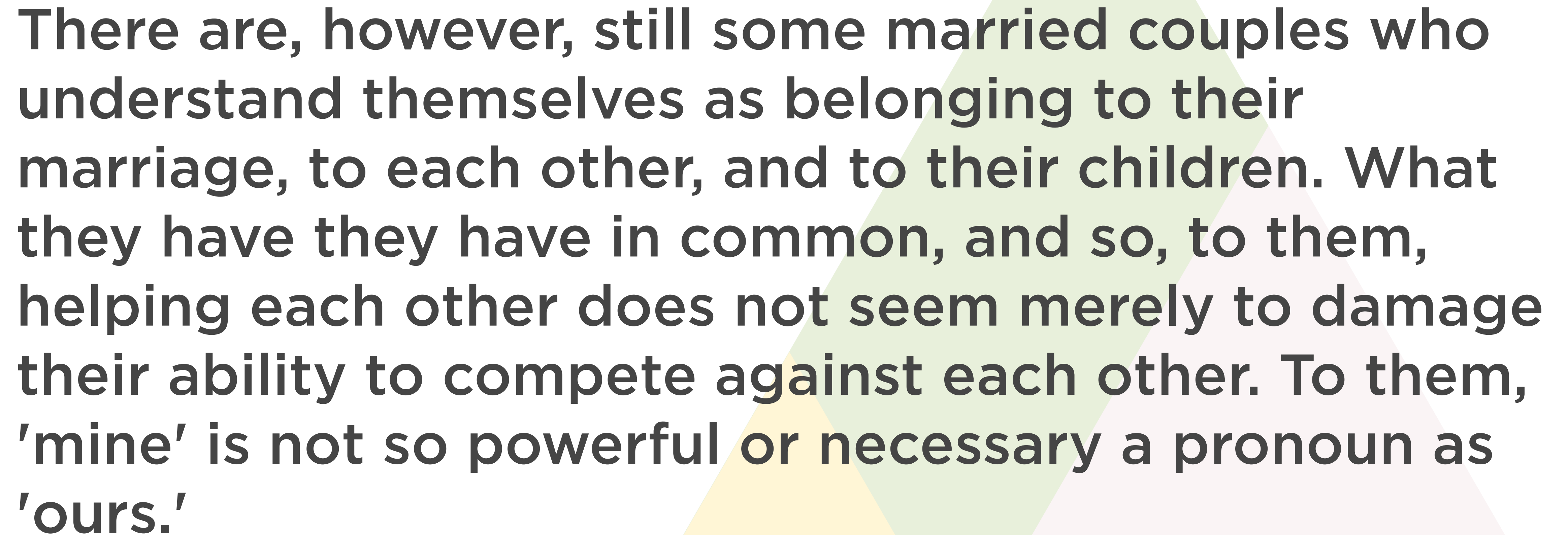
lead to

Objectification + Oppression

Marriage, in what is evidently its most popular version, is now on the one hand an intimate 'relationship' involving (ideally) two successful careerists in the same bed, and on the other hand a sort of private political system in which rights and interests must be constantly asserted and defended. Marriage, in other words, has now taken the form of divorce: a prolonged and impassioned negotiation as to how things shall be divided. During their understandably temporary association, the 'married' couple will typically consume a large quantity of merchandise and a large portion of each other.



The modern household is the place where the consumptive couple do their consuming. Nothing productive is done there. Such work as is done there is done at the expense of the resident couple or family, and to the profit of suppliers of energy and household technology. For entertainment, the inmates consume television or purchase other consumable diversion elsewhere.



There are, however, still some married couples who understand themselves as belonging to their marriage, to each other, and to their children. What they have they have in common, and so, to them, helping each other does not seem merely to damage their ability to compete against each other. To them, 'mine' is not so powerful or necessary a pronoun as 'ours.'

This sort of marriage usually has at its heart a household that is to some extent productive. The couple, that is, makes around itself a household economy that involves the work of both wife and husband, that gives them a measure of economic independence and self-employment, a measure of freedom, as well as a common ground and a common satisfaction.

—

Wendell Berry

"WOULD I RATHER BE
FEARED OR LOVED?
EASY. BOTH. I WANT
PEOPLE TO BE AFRAID
OF HOW MUCH THEY
LOVE ME."





Matthew 5:31-32

—
pg 678



Divorce (*apoluo*)

—

**to loose or unbind from,
to put way or to send away**



Deuteronomy 24:1-4

—
pg 137



Hillel & Shammai



ervath davar



Jesus confronts oppression



Contempt + Consumption

lead to

Objectification + Oppression



Jesus holds up God's ideal: one flesh



Matthew 19:1-11

—
pg 689

“What marriage offers - and what fidelity is meant to protect - is the possibility of moments when what we have chosen and what we desire are the same. Such a convergence obviously cannot be continuous. No relationship can continue very long at its highest emotional pitch. But fidelity prepares us for the return of these moments, which give us the highest joy we can know; that of union, communion, atonement (in the root sense of at-one-ment).”

**—
Wendell Berry**



Jesus brings the faithfulness