

We have become a country of greed

The more I watch TV, the more I listen to the radio, the more I peruse the blogosphere, the more I engage in social media, and the more I read newspapers and magazines, the more convinced I become our problems are all related to two things: selfishness and greed.

The cold, hard truth is we have become an incredibly selfish and greedy society.

Sure, we occasionally come together and show support for one another during times of tragedy; just witness the outpouring of compassion and assistance for the tornado victims in Oklahoma over the past week.

But how we treat one another during trying times is not what truly defines who we are. It's how we treat each other the rest of the time that really counts. And my sense is, both as individuals and as a society, we are much more self-centered and covetous than previous generations.

Although the Founding Fathers obviously understood the importance of individual rights and personal responsibility, they also had a profound respect for what constituted the "common good," and they incorporated this guiding principle into the fabric of our new nation.

Which means most of them would no doubt be nauseated by the current quagmire in Washington, D.C. — the epicenter of our country's love affair with self-indulgence. And for those myopic, finger-pointing readers who care more about assessing blame than actually solving problems, neither side of the aisle seems immune from this epidemic of narcissism.

Liberals who believe everyone should be taken care of are just as misguided as conservatives who believe everyone should simply take care of their own.

The real danger to our collective future is not from terrorists, economic competition or immigration. Rather, our greatest threat is from within. Left unchecked, our unbridled preoccupation with ourselves will be our ultimate undoing.

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