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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ
 Greater Hartford Chapter
 R HOUSE Restaurant
 June 20, 2012**

- Welcome! Opening prayer and introductions
- FCCI news/update
- Today’s topic: **Beware of “Affluenza!”**

“Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” —Luke 12:15

One of the unexpected blessings from speaking at Iron Sharpens Iron in Maine earlier this year was hearing Paul Coughlin speak. I was blown away, spoke with him afterwards, and purchased three of his books.

His basic premise is that we don’t need “nice” Christians. We need “good” Christians who courageously stand up for what is right, which is often not the “nice” thing to do. One of the expressions he uses to describe our materialism is “affluenza.” In his book *Unleashing Courageous Faith*, Coughlin quotes Harvey Mansfield, a Professor of Government at Harvard, who says: “Commerce is unmanly because it is materialistic, willing to settle for gain rather than victory, for trade-offs rather than justice. The commercial life rejects sacrifice and rests on calculation of advantage. The most famous defense of manly chivalry is an attack on modern calculation.”

Yes, we’re Christian businesspeople. Yes, we have businesses to operate. But as we go about our daily business, are we guilty of affluenza—the assumption that the more stuff and money we have and hoard, the more fulfilling lives we’ll lead?

Evaluate yourself from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of covetousness.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by being less covetous for the rest of your life?										
What specific actions can you take to become less covetous?										

- NO MEETING on July 4. Next meeting on July 18.
- ICR seminar at Tolland High School on June 30.
- Closing prayer