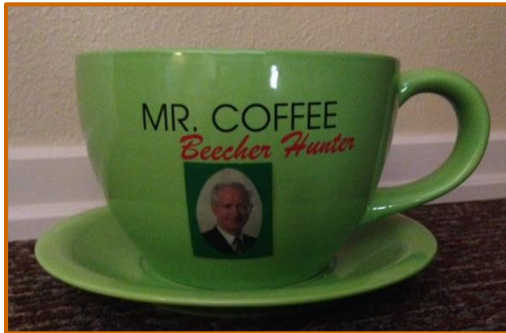


For Lovers of Coffee



My reputation as a lover of coffee is well earned. I even have displayed prominently in my office a bronze sculpture of a coffee drinker that Forrest Preston presented to me at the 1999 Annual Management Meeting in Seattle, Washington. Some of you, no doubt, witnessed that event.

I'm reasonably certain that a goodly number of you who are reading this are also coffee aficionados. Take the following self-test (put down

that mug first) and see how you rate. Circle those that apply to you. Some signs that you may be a coffee co-dependent:

- At company social gatherings, you don't mingle; you blend.
- You applied for a job as a *bean counter* because you thought it involved coffee beans.
- You refer to your co-workers as your "coffee mates."
- If you had a nickel for every cup of coffee you have consumed, you'd buy more cups of coffee!
- You gargle with coffee-flavored mouthwash.
- You don't tan; you roast.
- If work gets stressful, you don't get mad; you get steamed.
- You think being called "a drip" is a compliment.
- You named your cats Cream and Sugar.
- You believe Juan Valdez should be a saint.
- You go to bed early every night so you can "wake up and smell the coffee."
- Your face is on the Colombian postage stamp.



Well, perhaps those declarations are a *bit* exaggerated! But a little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest people.

Be joyful always (1 Thessalonians 5:16 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter