

Your Celebration Wall

I. Purpose

- Deuteronomy 6; Exodus 20:4-6
- The Israelites set up a monument as they entered the Promised Land. They did that so that everyone who saw it would be reminded of the powerful works God did to keep His promises.
- Yet this concept is strangely foreign to our modern world. We'll ask Siri to set a reminder, we use various scheduling apps, we'll even put Post-It notes and 3x5 cards around our house and workspaces, but the idea of displaying a verse or image designed to draw our minds to spiritual Truth seems strange.
- The Celebration Wall is not a place to worship God with religious rites and activities. Nothing on this wall is special or intrinsically blessed. All they are are memorials designed to point our minds to the God they commemorate.
- That is the purpose . . . to keep God and His glory ever before our, our church's, our students, and our family's eyes.

II. Location

- It wouldn't be a very good idea to hide our Celebration Wall under a bushel. God wants us to be the light of the world to draw others to Him, that means that our devotion for God should be visible to us, those under our care, and anyone who may see it.
- By placing it in a central or well-traveled location of your home, classroom, church, or office, you not only keep it in the center of your attention, it can also be seen by visitors and acts as a fantastic conversation piece that beautifully gives you multiple ways to present the Gospel.
- You can have as many Celebration Walls as you desire. You could have the main Wall in your living room or kitchen, and then have smaller boards with more specific detail in the bedrooms.
- The purpose is so that born again believers will be reminded of God when they see it.
- And this is so valuable because we're engaged in spiritual warfare wherein Satan is desperately trying to distract us from Truth. The Bible also says that demonic forces are at work to actively steal away Truth from our minds. We need all the help we can get.
- When you understand the necessity of being pointed back to God, you start to get excited about binding Scripture on your hands and writing them on your doorposts and on your gates.

III. Personalization

- The idea of drawing our mind back to God is amazing, but this step is where we start having fun by exercising the creativity with which God made us.
- You, my friends, have the freedom to create this space to your liking. Yes, it has basic jobs it needs to accomplish, and so function is a consideration, but — just like decorating for Christmas — I want you and your family and your students and your church to really enjoy looking at and using your Celebration Wall.
- You can even choose to call it something different. Some of the ideas we've received from TLP listeners include "Celebration Station" and JOY Wall where J.O.Y. stands for Jubilant Observation of Yahweh.
- It should match the decor of the space. Let's not give the worship of God a bad name by having it look tacky.
- It should reflect your own personal style. My family loves all things natural, so we plan to use a lot of wood, flora, and the like. But you may prefer a metal theme.

- Many families use chalkboards for their family reminders. That too would be a great idea. Perhaps you could even renovate the front of the refrigerator to be your Celebration Wall . . . or Door.
- You could frame it, it could be a cork board, white board, bulletin board, it could be a tree on which you hang the Scriptures and reminders, it could be a tabletop or shelving unit.
- If you have small children, you can use bright colors and allow it to change as they mature.
- My family has a wooden foundation with space for things to be posted but also shelves on which to set items that will focus our minds during the specific season and holidays of the year.
- The sky is the limit, and I encourage you and your people to enjoy yourself and really explore the possibilities. You could even get started with a simple cork board or chalkboard as you prepare something more grandiose for later on.
- So, we've learned that the Celebration Wall has a divine purpose and so should be placed in a prominent location. But we can also personalize it to our necessities and preferences.

IV. Interaction

- **Prepare the Celebration Wall.**
 - We recommend having a title like "Celebration of God," "Celebration Wall," or "JOY Wall."
 - Have a space to display the current Season and description of the Season.
 - Dedicate a space to a calendar.
 - But set aside much of the space for Bible verses.
- **Fill the Celebration Wall.**
 - Decorate your wall.
 - Post the verses, fill in the prayer prompts, set out trinkets and examples of God's goodness in order to commemorate what He did in your family.
- **Teach the Celebration Wall.**
 - There's only one thing that's worse than forgetting why we do what we do . . . it's never having been taught in the first place.
 - Sacraments and religious activities that should have been filling born again believers with great joy have become a millstone because the participants don't know *why* they're doing what they're doing.
 - Using the Celebration Wall is always going to involve teaching those around me why everything is there. We need to talk about the significance of the verses. We need to explain how this holiday and season looks forward to the next and looks backward to the prior. We need to explain how the tokens and symbols hanging on the Wall are supposed to draw our minds to God's character and deeds. Otherwise what should be a sacred memorial that reminds us of the relationship we have with our living Lord becomes a piece of modern art.
- **Update the Celebration Wall.**
 - In preparation and anticipation for the new season, you will want to have new verses ready and new items prepared to update and decorate the Wall. You'll want to keep it fresh for each holiday. We wouldn't want our Celebration Wall getting stale.
 - It may sound like extra work to keep the Wall fresh, but it's worth it. The changing holidays and seasons provide a schedule around which you can build the habit of self-control to make the things of God important.
 - Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Him. There is a cost, and keeping your Celebration Wall up to date is a small sacrifice to daily remind ourselves that God deserves our worship and praise and adoration and celebration.