

Shadows of What's to Come

I. Don't pass judgement and submit to the judgement of others in regard to mere shadows about which there is no clear command.

- Colossians 2:16-19
- The idea of not passing judgement didn't have to do with whether or not others were going to critique them, it had to do with the believer's own response to the critique.
- Someone may judge you for doing something or for not doing something else, but you don't have to let that judgment take root in you. You don't have to buy into it and accept it.
- However, when a child of God takes the Word of God and in the love of God confronts you about sin in your life, you need to respond to that reproof.
- But when it comes to things about which there is no clear command or in an area where God has granted liberty, we do not need to submit to the condemnation of others.

II. We have been given many shadows and copies of heavenly realities that are designed to help us focus on God.

- Colossians 2:16-19; Hebrews 8:4-5, 9:24, 10:1
- Just like the Old Testament feasts and customs and even the Law itself, our modern festivals and feasts and days of rest are not the substance — they're not the main point. They're merely shadowy copies of much more significant spiritual realities.
- The holidays and feasts and days of rest and the Celebration Walls and the podcast episodes and the speeches and the rituals . . . these are all designed to point our minds to something else — something greater.
- We never want The Celebration of God to become the main thing. God is the main thing, and the Celebration of God discipleship experience is designed to help us continue to keep Him as the main thing.
- By all means, use The Year Long Celebration of God resources to help you mature in your worship of God, but do not slavishly adhere to it like a system of rules and regulations. Don't make the checklists and the challenges the goal of the year. Don't mindlessly keep the traditions.

III. Focus on the substance.

- Colossians 2:16-19; Matthew 25:15
 - Don't let people judge you when you are genuinely serving God the way He commands.
 - Don't get so focused on the symbol, that you miss the Savior.
 - Don't fall into a delusion by thinking that your unbiblical approach to the worship of God is Christ-honoring. That's self-worship.
 - Instead, Grow in your true worship of God.
- Your Celebration Wall and our holiday observations and our various resources are designed to point you to the God in Whom you must be built up and supplied and in Whom you must grow.
- If we use The Celebration of God in that way, we will all become better disciples of Christ, and we will help our disciples to do the same.
- But if we substitute the substance for the shadow, we're like the Pharisees in Matthew 23:23 to whom Jesus said, "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*" May it never be.