

An Important Conversation about Lent

I. God deserves our worship all of the time.

- God's desire for our lives trumps all of our desires. Whether we're podcasting or gardening or vacationing or celebrating a holiday, God should hold the preeminent position. His will for how we function during all of those activities must have first place in our lives.
- Have you learned that God deserves first place in every facet of your life? He deserves it in your schooling, your marriage, your church, your recreation, your parenting, your entertainment, your friendships, your work, your everything.
- How would your life be different if God were to have the first place in everything?

II. We need to be more intentional about our discipleship if we really want to grow as God designed us to grow.

- We all fail in our discipleship.
- That means that instead of decreasing the amount of time and energy we pour into it, we need to increase it. We need more help and more dependance on God and more investment and more tools.
- Our relationships, our resources, and our holidays should be multiplied in order to enhance our discipleship.
- Do you need to be more intentional in your discipleship? Well, I can tell you this, as you strive to give God the honor and glory that's due Him every moment of the day, you will definitely see all the areas where you fail to worship Him as you should.
- And that should help you identify certain tools that will assist you as you strive to become a better disciple of Christ.

III. Lent is not simply an empty Catholic holiday.

- There is a lot in Scripture about fasting, mourning over our sin, and the other specifics of the Lenten season including the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading, prayer, service, and holy living.
- And — historically speaking — the men and women who participated in the early church tradition of Lent did so for very biblical and noble reasons.

IV. Lent is an amazing opportunity for a spiritual reset.

- Lent itself is an extended Preparation where God's people are to ready themselves for a Christ-honoring celebration of Easter
- But Lent is not merely about getting ready for Easter. Lent is historically a time of growing in our spiritual disciplines including Scripture reading, prayer, helping the poor, and righteous living.
 - So, we come out of Christmas into the New Year, we've made our holiday-inspired resolutions and we're excited about the New Year, and then a month or so later we're right back where we started.
 - Lent is a wonderful way to keep the momentum.
- Every year Lent provides a purposeful and church-wide focus on renewing the spiritual disciplines of Bible study, prayer, church attendance, service, and holy living.
- Imagine how helpful it would be for you as you work to mature in your relationship with God to have all of your church services, all of your small groups, all of your discipleship conversations with friends to be instructing and encouraging you along the same lines!
- The spiritual reset that Lent offers should be more than a mere personal enterprise. Lent sets aside a deliberate and consistent time every year to reevaluate and make changes as necessary.

V. Fasting should be an important part of a Christian's life.

- This is a big part of the spiritual reset.
- Even though fasting is a hugely important topic, many people are probably only superficially acquainted with the idea of fasting.
- The idea of fasting in the Bible is rarely explained in any detail because it seemed that everyone back then was familiar with the process. But it appears that modern Christians have forgotten something that was once an integral part of the church's memory.
- We need to relearn this very biblical and spiritually beneficial discipline of fasting.
- To that end, we will be having a much more detailed future discussion concerning fasting so that God's people will be able to remember — or learn for the first time — the value and place of fasting in the Christian's life.

The
Celebration
of God
podcast