

## The Complexity of Celebrating God

### I. The Basic Level

- The Celebration of God encourages Christians to celebrate — on the personal and corporate levels — 12 of the major holidays. And, if after hearing the list, you only want to observe 5 . . . so be it. Again, there's liberty.
- The Basic events and character of God we believe all Christians should love to celebrate are as follows:
  - The Creation
  - The Creation Mandate
  - The Grace and Mercy of God
  - The Love of God
  - Christ's Incarnation
  - The Death and Resurrection of Christ
  - The freedom we have in Christ
  - God's gift of the family.
  - God's gift of the Scriptures
  - God's gift of the church.
  - Christ's Return
  - Family celebrations — physical and spiritual birthdays and anniversaries

### II. The Intermediate Level

- The Intermediate introduces even more opportunities for you and your church and your extended family and your friends and your school to celebrate other amazing things about God.
  - What about God's gift of family? Yes, we celebrated fathers and mothers, but there are more.
  - What about developing a deeper appreciation of the good gifts God has given us like prayer, work, the stewardship of the earth, the individual beauties of each member of the Trinity, the church family, freedom in Christ, and many more.
- God illustrated for us the content of our celebration when He ordained the Old and New Testament feasts and memorials.
- He is the subject, and His character and His works are all up for grabs. And since God's infinite, we could — technically — celebrate just one facet of His majesty for the rest of eternity without ever repeating any character trait or miracle.
- Of course, at this moment, the Celebration of God does *not* have a major event scheduled for every day of the year. That would be ignoring the rhythm principle we've previously discussed. But there are a lot of amazing things the Lord is and has done for His New Testament believers that are worth celebrating.

### III. The Advanced Level

- Christians do themselves, their churches, their families, and their communities a massive disservice when we act like God is only to be celebrated on certain days of the year with pomp and circumstance.
- We know now that every choice I make to value God's will over my own is a form of personal celebration.
- But, you know what, it's a lot easier to celebrate Christmas than it is to stand up to the sinful temptations in my school or respond correctly to a spouse who's cheated on us.
- So, throughout the year we're going to discuss more mature concepts like how we celebrate God during our morning commute, how we give Christ the preeminence on our family movie night, how we shop to the glory of God and eat to the glory of God and pay bills to the glory of God.
- The Advanced Level is where we're serious about showing God that He's worth it. We're not just going to give Him 10 or 20 days out of our calendar . . . He gets to be the King of every day, hour, minute, and second of our lives.
- The Advanced Level has you and your community truly working toward a non-stop Year Long Celebration of God.
- Now, of course, none of us are going to do it perfectly. There will be seconds and minutes and hours, whole days, and even strings of days where we celebrate our own desires. They will come, but there's a way to celebrate God in those moments too. It's called recognizing His glory and repenting.
- Really, the question we have to ask ourselves is can you really do too much of a good thing? If there is nothing more important, more glorious, more powerful, more life-changing, more redemptive than celebrating God in all I do . . . how could I do too much?
- And that's the passion everyone here at Truth.Love.Parent. and the Celebration of God want to help instill in you and the people God has entrusted you to disciple.