

THE *Big 3*

EPISODE: 160

TITLE: How to Celebrate According to the Gospel

Jesus wants us to see that any picture of his Father we have that does not have at its core, as our central understanding, a celebration where God is our provider, caregiver and protector, is twisted.

Here are three key things to believe and consider when partying or planning a celebration...

1. **God loves to celebrate... and loves when we celebrate!** It's important to shift our thinking about our heavenly Dad when it comes to celebration and parties. Our God is a God of celebration and joy. God set regular celebrations into the annual and daily calendars of his people, his family, so that they would always live with reminders of who he is and what he is like. And so that they would demonstrate this to others and display their trust in the consistency of his goodness, care, and generosity.
2. **Who or what is the focus of your celebration and partying?** When partying in any manner, have you ever stopped to ask yourself "why"? *Why am I doing this today? Who will be glorified while I'm at this BBQ or pub tonight?* The motivation of your heart when celebrating is really the point to remember. God created you to enjoy him and all of his creation... Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
3. **Christians need to party more.** Christians should be seen as the most celebratory people in the world! Or more specifically, in the neighborhood, or at work... But taking things that God created "good" (and He created everything good) and using them for our own glory, or abusing them, is at the root of all sin. But fearful abstinence misses the heart of God by a mile. Be generous in your celebrations, be the "bringer of the better wine" per se', just like Jesus.

So, regularly gather in community (not in rows once a week) to share stories and celebrate all that God is doing in and amongst you in your lives. Invite everyone you know to these celebrations as a way of displaying God's glory.

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath

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