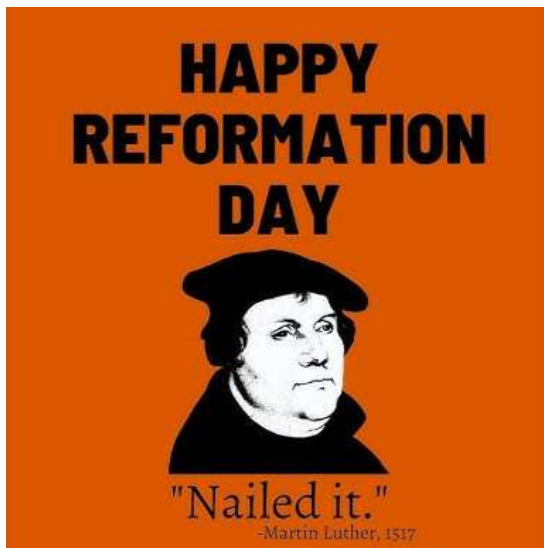


TRICK OR TREAT?

Happy Halloween! Happy Reformation Day!

Whatever you choose to call today, I hope you have a happy one.



With today being Halloween (or Reformation Day), it got me thinking about the divide, mainly inside Christendom, of whether we should recognize this day or not. Growing up, it wasn't a big deal for us. I think I only went trick or treating once or twice when I was a kid. We didn't decorate or really celebrate it, but we usually always had candy—either to hand out or to snack on in between trick or treaters coming to the house.

Even since I've been a parent, we never made a big deal about it either. Reagan and Bryce have only gone trick or treating a handful or so times in their lives. When we were in South Florida and our kids were little, we had some good friends who had a son who was Reagan's age at the time. It was a tradition that they would come over to our house, we would eat chili together, and the wives and kids would go trick or treating in our neighborhood while the men sat on the porch and handed out candy.





When Bryce came along, he joined in with them (I evangelistically sent him out to bring me back candy since he was too young to eat it). We didn't care about the festivities as much as we enjoyed the fellowship with friends.

I don't know your thoughts on today and it's festivities. Maybe you're the house in the neighborhood that's decked out like a haunted house and all the kids are scared to come to it because it's so elaborately decorated.

Maybe you're the house in the neighborhood that looks like a haunted house and all the kids are scared to come to it because you have "KEEP OUT" signs all over your yard—not as decorations—but actual warnings not to bother you and defile the sanctity of your property.

Either way, I hope that you would take the time to STOP & Consider an important principle about engaging our culture and how it could impact our views about this day, and all "holidays," that we recognize in our culture.



I heard a pastor once say concerning culture that we can either **REJECT** it, **RECEIVE** it, or **REDEEM** it. I don't remember the first place I heard this, but there's a simple and sound article about this very concept on the Acts29 website, which you can read by clicking this [LINK](#).

When I originally heard this the idea was that you can either reject cultural things wholeheartedly and everything they stand for, receive them believing that they are wholly good, right, and true, or you can redeem it by using it in a way that honors the gospel. The article above presents this slightly different, but better.

I remember a good friend of ours, who is currently a missionary in Thailand, who redeemed Halloween when she lived here in the States. Every Halloween she would set up a table in her driveway, equipped with candy and other treats, and had a large pumpkin in the middle of the table. As trick or treaters would come to her house, she would gather them together in small groups and present the [Pumpkin Gospel](#).

She would use this pumpkin, which she had prepared beforehand, to present the message of the gospel to all the kids and parents who would listen. Instead of completely **REJECTING** the day, turning her lights off and locking her door, instead of **RECEIVING** it wholeheartedly and participating in all of its potential debauchery, she **REDEEMED** it by taking the good things from it and used them in a way that not only honored the gospel but also spread the gospel.

So, as we go into the events of the evening—and as we enter this long “holiday” season—take the time to STOP & Consider how you will engage the culture in which you live.

What should be rejected? What should be received? What can be redeemed?

Is there something that you can do tonight to redeem our culture?

There's a good chance that you will have the culture coming to your house tonight—maybe give them the treat of the good news of Jesus Christ...

...and maybe some candy too.

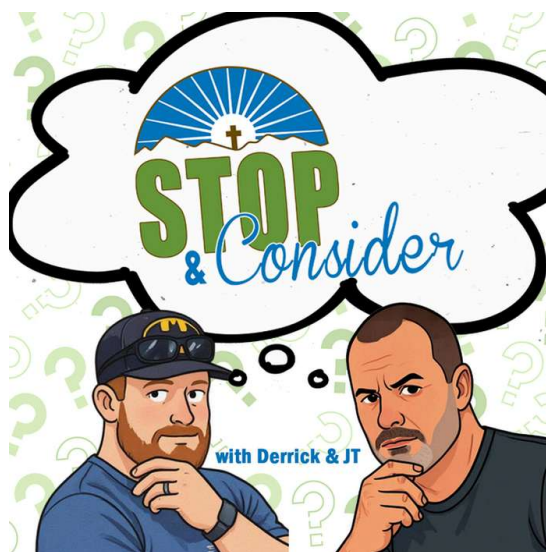
Derrick Marrs
Ministry Director

NO PAIN NO GAIN (PART 1)

The newest episode of our STOP & Consider Podcast dropped this morning!

We hope you are enjoying listening to these episodes as much as we are enjoying filming them! Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement! We still don't know what we are doing, but we pray it's been challenging you to STOP & Consider.

Be sure to subscribe, like, share, and comment so we can reach more people!



If you aren't familiar with podcasts or how to listen to them, feel free to simply visit our website and listen from there. Here is the link for your convenience:

www.bancroftgospelministry.org/stopandconsider

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New episodes drop every two weeks, and as always, THANKS for listening!



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