

The Bible and the Newsfeed

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Christians do not consume the news differently than non-Christians

- We often fall on one end of the news consumption spectrum: We either over-consume and are outraged, or we under-consume and are uninformed
- Everything we do as Christians should look different.
- Consuming the news differently will not happen by accident.

Ephesians 5:15-17

“Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible.” Karl Barth

Three things to keep in mind as you consume the news:

First: God is not surprised.

- We watch the news as a timeline, not knowing what will come next.
- God sees the world very differently. He sees all of time in an instant.
- Isaiah 46:8-10 reminds us that God knew the end in the beginning.
- Colossians 1:15-17 reminds us that all of history points to Jesus. Everything was created by Him and through Him and for Him.
- Every time we read Revelation 21, it ends the same!
- When you know how the story ends, you watch the game a little differently.

Second: Not every story deserves the same weight.

- The news business tries to grab your attention and keep it.
- The two most dangerous words in media are “Now this...”
- Our algorithms disciple us into believing that all stories are the same. As Christians, we know they’re not.
- Stories like Ben Sasse’s remind us that life is fleeting, and wisdom comes through numbering our days (Psalm 90:12).

Third: The enemy is the enemy.

- The media grabs our attention through outrage, convincing us to demonize people who disagree with us.
- But Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that we do not war against flesh and blood, but instead against the cosmic powers at play.
- You are subconsciously being disciplined by the 167 hours each week outside of church. How can we practically push back against the way the news media is (mal)forming us?

First: Let the Word get the first word.

- Neuroscience proves that the first 10-15 minutes of your day are critical for how the rest of your day will go.
- Psalm 1 shows us what a life rooted in the Word of God looks like.
- Challenge for this week: Read your Bible before you check the news, emails, or text messages.

Second: Forgive.

- It’s easy to demonize others. It’s more difficult, but more wise, to look inward to see where we are harboring unforgiveness.
- Forgiven people forgive people. Ephesians 4:31-32.
- Challenge for this week: If you consume a news story that makes you angry, evaluate yourself to see where you are harboring unforgiveness.

Third: Pray.

- If you’re looking for a prayer list, open up a news app!
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2 calls us to pray for our leaders, even if we disagree with them.
- Challenge for this week: Pray for the people involved in each news story that you consume.

We can walk wisely in an age of hyper-media, but it will take intentionality. When we remember the story of the Gospel, we remember that we have a much better story than the stories we see in the news.