

NED MEN'S MINISTRY

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What Are We Doing This For?

We have fearless elders here in Waverly. I can only thank previous pastors and Dave Murphy for their faithful sowing into their lives before I got here two years ago.

During our monthly elders meeting we have a devotion and time of prayer. We've been going slowly through Matthew 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount. The focus of the discussion is the question, "What if He really meant it?"

The conversation originally began over our social media, but continued into the variety of things that we do. So, we ask, "**What are we doing this for?**"

- For the sake of Production? We should not be doing things simply for the sake of being the best at doing it; that's pride.
- For the sake of Promotion? We should not be doing things simply for the sake of personal growth; that's greed.
- Or, for the sake of Proclamation? We should be doing things solely that Christ's name be honored in our lives and community and His kingdom (whether at our gathering or not) would grow in new believers; that's servanthood.

As A.W. Tozer wrote of Five Vows for Spiritual Power:

1. I will deal thoroughly with sin. I will repent of all the sin in my own life that the Holy Spirit reveals to me.
2. I will never own anything. Everything belongs to God; He owns it all. Therefore, everything I own really belongs to God and is at His disposal. Anytime, anywhere, and in any circumstance.

3. I will never defend myself. I will let God defend me. I will let Him be the enemy of my enemies and the adversary of my adversaries.
4. I will never pass on anything about anybody else that will hurt them. I will not gossip; I will not slander anyone. I will not confess another person's sins to others.
5. I will never accept glory. I will not take any credit for myself for the things that God has done. I will give God all the glory!

So, our question—and feel free to embrace it as your own as well—is, "**What are we doing this for?**"

We're not saying to give up worship team practice or sermon preparation and "see what the Lord will do." We're not saying that we don't want our congregations to grow.

What we're seeking, and I believe in your heart you are as well, is that Jesus would be honored in our lives and communities first. If they forget our name and never meet with us again, they've lost an earthly relationship. But, if they don't know Jesus, they've lost an eternal one.

How can you and I simplify our production, limit the promotion by removing ourselves from the spotlight, and let Christ shine this year?



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