



A Strategy for Cultural Transformation

Module 1 - Task 7

LET'S GET PRACTICAL

So far we have looked at some of the reasons for calling a solemn assembly and key components of a solemn assembly. In this task, we want to think through how you can implement a solemn assembly in your church.

Perhaps one of the first things to consider is a common objection that a member, leader, or pastor might face in calling for a solemn assembly. Here is how we posed this question/objection to Dr. Evans: "One objection to your plan for churches to regularly call solemn assemblies might be that given the scale of the social problems in their city/neighborhood how could regular prayer and fasting possibly have any hope of starting cultural transformation?" View his response:

How would you summarize in your own words why Dr. Evans thinks this focus on the spiritual is critical for social transformation?

What are some other objections you think could be brought up in your context concerning calling a solemn assembly?

Given what you have learned so far in this module, how might you answer some of these objections? So how should a solemn assembly be organized and planned out in your church setting? Take a look at how Dr. Evans has implemented a yearly solemn assembly in his church.



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What do you think are some of the advantages of organizing a solemn assembly this way?

Dr. Evans suggested here a week long service with the following format: Sunday: a morning worship service and sermon to call the church to repent, pray, and fast and an evening service of prayer for the leaders of the church; Monday, assembly for men; Tuesday, assembly for women; Wednesday, an all church service; Thursday, encouragement for families to meet and pray together; Friday, prayer meetings in small groups that culminate in a “break the fast” celebration of food and fellowship. The format, however, is flexible. You could do a three day format (first day: men’s assembly; second day: women’s assembly; third day: all church service) or even a one day call to prayer and fasting.

What are some other ways you could structure a solemn assembly that would fit your context?

Of course, the strongest argument for why a solemn assembly might be important for your church is the fruit that comes from this focused time of gathering together for repentance, prayer, and fasting. View Dr. Evans’s response to “What are some of the fruits you have seen formed in the life of your church from calling regular solemn assemblies?”



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Historically, one of the key fruits of focused times of gathered prayer has been the outbreak of revival. Read one or both of the following articles on revivals: “When Revival Ran Epidemic” or “How History’s Revivals Teach Us to Pray”. What is a key takeaway you learned from the article/s you selected about the connection between prayer and revival?

What is something you might dream of God doing in your life, your church, or your community through a solemn assembly?