

Top 10 Things to Be Thankful For



In honor of Thanksgiving, I'm happy to announce the top 10 things

Christian guys can be thankful for in 2009. This list is in no particular order and will alternate between meaningful, truly important

things and completely superficial fun stuff.

10. Cheap HDTVs

A combination of better technology and a crummy economy has now allowed

men to view the world as it was meant to be viewed: on a couch in

glorious high definition. So whether you're watching the good (football), the bad (chick flicks) or the ugly (Gregg Popovich), you

get to see every nook and cranny.

9. Wives

What would we do without our wives? Probably spend way too much time

with our HDTVs. Proverbs 18:22 says, "He who finds a wife finds what is

good and receives favor from the Lord" (NIV). Solomon hit that one

right on the head. Our wives take care of us, they challenge us, they

inspire us to do better. They provide insight, wisdom, sympathy, love

and lots of forgiveness. I couldn't be more thankful.

8. Fireproof

Speaking of wives, men around the country renewed their

commitment to
their better halves this year because of the amazing film
Fireproof. Created
by the guys at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., this
movie has
become the most successful independent film of the past year,
inspiring
new commitments to marriage along the way. I have heard so
many stories
about the good things this movie has done, and I have been
absolutely
blown away with how God has used it.

7. The Return of 24

When season six of 24 ended,
fans were worried that Jack Bauer had been all used up. That
was until
the show completely rejuvenated itself and kicked some
terrorist tail
in Washington, D.C. There are few things on television more
satisfying
than watching the baddest man on TV take down evil dictators
and
corrupt rich guys. Plus, this year's exploration of the moral
implications of Jack's methods provided a great balance for
the show.

6. Fantasy Sports

Even though Tony Romo killed my team last week, I'm still
loving
everything about fantasy sports. There are few things more fun
than
drafting a team and following your players as the season plays
out. But
the reason it makes this list is, I've never found an easier
way to
keep in touch with my long-distance friends. It's a

superficial game,
but anything that keeps guys in community with one another
regularly is
a good thing.

5. Small Groups for Men

Despite the early wake-up times, there are few things in life
that can
be more important or meaningful than getting together with a
group of
men and sharing your lives together. Whether you're studying
Scripture,
going through a book or just meeting for coffee, having a
regular time
of the week set aside for male friendships is something I hope
all of
us can be thankful for.

4. Children

This
one's tough for me to write about, seeing that I don't have
any kids
myself, but it would be ridiculous of me to leave this out.
Every dad
I've ever met would always place his kids at the top of the
list of
things he's thankful for.

3. Dads

On the
flip side, for every guy out there who's still got a dad he
can talk
to, you know there are few things to be more thankful for.
There's
nothing like that father-son relationship. Whether you're just
discussing the latest news or sports, sharing about the
challenges
you're facing or seeking him out for advice, it's truly a

blessing from
God to talk with your father.

2. Football

What would a Thanksgiving list be without football on it? Let's take time here to be thankful for the thing that not only gives us something to be irrationally passionate about every week in the fall, but also gives us a reason to use our HDTVs—and acts as a social lubricant for our conversations with other guys. Seriously, is there an easier way to start a conversation with one of your friends, your dad or your son than by asking, "So what do you think of the game?"

1. The Grace of God

As always, there is nothing in heaven and on earth more powerful or precious than the amazing grace of God. Through His grace, God forgives us for the little things and the big things. Through His grace we learn about the true nature of love. Through His grace, we will get to spend eternity in paradise, even though we have absolutely no right to such a gift. There is nothing anywhere to be more thankful for than the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

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