



# Discussion Questions on *Reading for the Love of God:*

## Chapter one: What Kind of Reader Are You?

1. What did you discover about yourself as a reader after reading this chapter?
2. Make a journal this week of your reading habits. When, where, what and for how long did you read? What did you notice about your reading habits? What do you want to do differently?
3. In your own words, define a “Christian way of reading.” Draw from what you read in the chapter.

## Chapter two: Why Read Anything but the Bible?

1. Theologian [Keith A. Mathison](#) distinguishes between “solo Scriptura” and “sola Scriptura,” the Protestant insistence on the sufficiency of Scripture. What has contributed to the fallacy that Christians should read *only* Scripture?
2. In this chapter, I put forward the wisdom of Augustine, Basil the Great, Philip Melancthon, and C. S. Lewis. Summarize their contributions to this argument in one line each.
3. How is the Bible different from other literature?



### **Chapter three: What's the Difference between "Use" and "Enjoy"?**

1. The distinction between "use" and "enjoy" is sometimes cloudy. How does the verb "love" help clarify the difference between the two words?
2. How can our enjoyment of the Bible teach us to love literature?

### **Chapter four: Do Good Books Make You a Good Person?**

1. More than *what* you read, *how* you read matters. Why is this so?
2. What would virtuous reading look like in practice?

### **Chapter five: What Does the Trinity Have to Do with the ART of Reading?**

1. How were you trained to read? Were you encouraged to pay more attention to the author, the reader, or the text itself? What do you find yourself attending more to out of habit?
2. How does the Aristotelian rhetorical triangle help you in coordinating your reading experience? In what practical ways might you read differently in the future?





## Chapter six: Why Do You Need Four Senses to Read?

1. What are the four senses, and can they apply to literature as well as to the Bible?

Why or why not?

2. What problems might there be in seeking four senses when we read?

How might you push back on this method?

3. What possibilities could the four senses open to your reading experience?

Do you find yourself drawn to or wary of certain senses over others?

## Chapter seven: How Can You Remember What You Read?

1. What are the greatest hurdles you face in remembering what you've read? How might you overcome those?

2. My friend Rev. Austin Carty argues in *The Pastor's Bookshelf* that it matters less whether you remember what you read because what you read still forms you even if you don't remember it.

How might his claim be true as well as my argument that remembering is a moral responsibility?

3. If you could commit one passage or poem to memory, what would you choose and why? (I recommend you make a resolution to do so!)

**On the Bookmarks:** After reading the bookmarks on Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Frederick Douglass, and Dorothy L. Sayers, which reader do you find most compelling? Who do you want to model in your reading life and why?



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