

Did you have a Holy Christmas?

Did you celebrate Diwali¹ festival this year, the Hindu ‘Festival of Lights’? I assume you didn’t, because you wouldn’t celebrate a pagan festival.²

Did you celebrate Halloween this year? If not, did you greet the children at the door with trick and treat and give them presents? I assume you didn’t, because you know there’s something not right about Halloween.

Halloween is believed to have originated from a Celtic, occultic festival called Samhain. This Gaelic observance was Christianized by the early Church in Britain and called ‘All Hallow’s Eve’ and it’s title is a contraction of this formal name.³ It’s celebrated on the eve of the Western Christian festival of ‘All Hallow’s Day’, the beginning of the 3-day observance of Allhallowtide, a liturgical period dedicated to remembering the dead.

You’ll notice that the costumes that come with the festival are death, skeletons, witches and monsters, indicating it’s true source and purpose. It is designed to focus people on evil. Whether it’s a counteraction by the ‘dark side’ to Christian festivals or not, I’m unaware.

It’s obvious, that Diwali and Halloween are not festivals Kingdom citizens should be involved in in any way.

Did you notice that my rejection of Halloween above is not based on the fruit of the holiday, but of its source. We’re told in scripture to test everything⁴ and that we’d know things by their fruit⁵. However, just as valuable is the evaluation of things but investigating their origin – i.e. their source.

This is not a strange or non-spiritual technique at all. The Council of apostles in Jerusalem told the Gentiles to stay away from anything related to idol worship and it’s rituals. So, the origin is critical.

As Kingdom citizens, everything we become involved in or adhere to, should come from Father’s Kingdom. Our approved source is the Kingdom, nothing else.

This poses a problem, because we are in the world as citizens of a nation, and so we need to evaluate everything in our culture to see if it is worthy of our participation.⁶ We must evaluate every cultural event and activity to see if it aligns with the Kingdom. Neutral ones we may accept, but unrighteous ones we must reject – e.g. Mardi Gras parades.

For example: Going to school is a cultural thing, so we must analyse it and find the value in it. We mustn’t accept it just because everyone else does it – that would be foolishness⁷. There may be evil and godliness in the schools, just as there is in every area of society.

The fruit of education in its purest form is good, and so, as Kingdom citizens, we educate our children at home or we allow them to be educated by others. If we send them to a secular school, we de-program them when they come home and we re-program them in the things of the Kingdom. If we send them to a church school, there are still factors of the Kingdom that are not present, or there are non-Kingdom factors that are present. Again, we have to de-program them and re-program them. That’s our responsibility as parents.

Our job as parents is also to see that our children are educated to the level that Holy Spirit shows us.

1 – See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali

2 – NOTE: Diwali is celebrated by Sikhs and Jains as well.

3 – See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween

4 – 1 Thessalonians 5:21

5 – Matthew 7:20

6 – John 15:19

7 – Galatians 3:1

This brings me to our topic's question: Did you have a holy Christmas this year?

When we evaluated Halloween and found that it didn't fit in with what is pure and lovely⁸ and righteous⁹, etc., we must even do the same with Christmas. So, what's the origin and fruit of Christmas as we celebrate it in the church and in our culture.

You can look at the fruit of Christmas and say that it breeds consumerism, it breeds over-spending, it breeds self-centredness and family arguments. However, anything can do that. Life can do that. Having job can do that. Having money can do that. Any perversion of something that's inherently good can do that, so that's not a valid way to assess it.

Christmas also brings some families together, and promotes love and giving. But is it Godly love and pure righteous giving? Even evil people can be loving and caring, so this fruit is not a good assessment.

Looking at its origin, we could say that it comes from the church, therefore it's fine. But, we need to dig a bit deeper than that. Christmas was formulated by the Roman Catholic system centuries ago and was transferred in the Reformation to the protestant churches. Here's some history on Christmas' origin:

“Prior to and through the early Christian centuries, winter festivals—especially those centered on the winter solstice—were the most popular of the year in many European pagan cultures. Reasons included the fact that less agricultural work needed to be done during the winter, as well as an expectation of better weather as spring approached. Many modern Christmas customs have been directly influenced by such festivals, including gift-giving and merrymaking from the Roman Saturnalia, greenery, lights, and charity from the Roman New Year, and Yule logs and various foods from Germanic feasts. Pagan Scandinavia celebrated a winter festival called Yule, held in the late December to early January period...”

One theory to explain the choice of December 25 for the celebration of the birth of Jesus is that the purpose was to Christianize the pagan festival in Rome of the Dies Natalis Solis Invicti, meaning "the birthday of the Unconquered Sun", a festival inaugurated by the Roman emperor Aurelian (270-275) to celebrate the sun god and celebrated at the winter solstice, December 25. According to this theory, during the reign of the emperor Constantine, Christian writers assimilated this feast as the birthday of Jesus, associating him with the "sun of righteousness" mentioned in Malachi 4:2 (Sol Iustitiae)...

Sextus Julius Africanus (c.160-c.240) identified December 25, later to become the most widely accepted date of celebration, as the date of Jesus' birth in 221.”¹⁰

But the question still remains, did it originate in the Kingdom?

Most Christians would come to Christmas' defence and say that it celebrates the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. At the outset, this sounds like a good thing, but let's have a look at it.

If you're bible-believing Christian who believes that the Bible is the inerrant word of God, you must reject Christmas because it's not biblical. There are no directives to celebrate Jesus' birth in the NT, nor any examples of those in the 1st church who did so. As we don't know the exact date of his birth, a bible-believing Christian should reject Christmas immediately anyway.

If you're a church-goer, Christmas is part of church culture and so you're free to celebrate it.

We have the liberty in the Gospel of the Kingdom to have special days to celebrate, and freedom not to celebrate specific days.¹¹ Whether we do or do not celebrate special days, we must always do it to honour the Lord.¹² When we do it properly, he receives it and approves of what we do.

8 – Philippians 4:8

9 – Ephesians 5:9; Romans 1:32; 1 Corinthians 15:34; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Timothy 2:22

10 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas

11 – Romans 14:5-6

12 – Romans 14:5-6

So, you have the liberty in the Gospel not to celebrate Christmas.

As Kingdom citizens we have to make a decision about Christmas. First of all, as Spirit-led people, the things that motivate us, that activate us, should be the things that are righteous, godly, have Kingdom benefits, eternal benefits, and bring honour to our sovereign Lord. Primarily, however, they must originate from the Spirit of God.

In the Kingdom, under the NC, everything we do when it's done in honour of our King, is righteous and holy. This is because we are holy – we're sanctified, consecrated.¹³ Under spiritual principles, because we are holy, so are our lives and whatever is associated with us.¹⁴ So, every day is sanctified to us if we're Spirit-led and we live it for our King. There are no holy days in the Kingdom, because life itself is holy.

So, as Kingdom citizens, the answer to the topic's question should be, "No I didn't. I don't treat any specific day as holy. Every day is holy, set aside and consecrated in service of my King."

IMPORTANT: As Kingdom citizens we are always on Kingdom business.

REMEMBER: Even though we have the liberty to celebrate special days and festivals (feast), this is spiritually immature. Paul highlights this very strongly:

Galatians 4:9-10 (NKJV) – *But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years.*

So, what has this article got to do with coming out of the OC? Well, it's more about eliminating all religion and legalism. Christmas is a religious celebration and we can become legalistic in our attitude towards those who don't celebrate it the way we think it ought to be religiously celebrated.

To help you come to grips with Christmas realities, here's a couple of audio-visuals that give the origin and background of Christmas. They also exemplify how knowing some truth doesn't keep you from religion and legalism – as you'll quickly discover from both of the presentations. The files can be downloaded from the webpages listed below.

VIDEO: "What You Should Know About Christmas"

(www.thetrumpet.com/trumpet_daily/1735/what-you-should-know-about-christmas)

AUDIO: "#130: If It's Not in the Bible, Then Why Is Christmas so Popular?"

(www.thetrumpet.com/radio/shows/1/episodes/314/130-if-it-s-not-in-the-bible-then-why-is-christmas-so-popular)

NOTE: Christmas is a bit like Masonry – it's origin is pagan. Masons talk about the 'Great Architect of the Universe', which sounds very Christian in acknowledging Jesus as Creator, but they embrace any god they wish, including and especially Lucifer.¹⁵ Masonry infiltrated the church to escape persecution and became Christianized centuries ago. However, it's origins show that it's basis is in the enemy's camp, not the Kingdom. Similarly, Easter is non-biblical and it's origin is pagan. It comes from the worship of the Germanic goddess Eostre¹⁶ (also known as Astarte, Aphrodites & Ashtoreth).

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13 – 1 Peter 2:9

14 – Romans 11:16 (For an example of how this plays out, see 1 Corinthians 7:14)

15 – Thomas R. Horn (2013) "ZENITH 2016: Did Something Begin in the Year 2012 that will Reach its Zenith in 2016?" Defender Pub.

16 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter