



## Repositioning My Attitude Toward the Holidays (Why I Love Christmas)

December 20, 2020

**Text:** Romans 14:5-6 (NIV)

### Introduction:

- Christmas has always been fun for me, from my youth
- My mother and I would always decorate a small unimpressive tree.
- I loved the gifts and the joy of Christmas morning
- I loved the shopping and Christmas specials on TV

**Question:** Do you think we have forgotten Christ and made it about gifts?

**Answer:** We were not church people until I was sixteen years old and did not have the traditional church perspective. We saw the story about Christ, acknowledged it and then moved on to celebrate the holiday. There was no evil intent.

**Personal Observation:** Some Christians think God is anti-anything that does not mention him.

### Questions People Ask Me About Christmas

#### 1. Is it wrong to talk about Santa Claus and Rudolph? (I see it the same way I see cartoons)

**Scripture:** Romans 14:5-6 (NIV)

- 5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord.

#### 2. Is God upset because of the focus on gifts in the Christmas season?

**Answer:** If you honor him the rest of the year, **no**.

**Scripture:** Luke 6:38 (NIV)

- 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

**Note:** The History Channel Website (Sarah Pruitt)

- “**The first official mention of December 25** as a holiday honoring Jesus’ birthday appears in an early Roman calendar from **336 A.D. But was Jesus really born on December 25** in the first place? Probably not. The **Bible** doesn’t mention his exact birthday, and the Nativity story contains conflicting clues. For instance, the presence of shepherds and their sheep suggest a spring birth.
- When church officials settled on December 25 at the end of the third century, they likely wanted the date to coincide with existing pagan festivals honoring Saturn (the Roman god of agriculture) and



Mithra (the Persian god of light). That way, it became easier to convince Rome's pagan subjects to accept Christianity as the empire's official religion."

**Source:** <https://www.history.com/news/why-is-christmas-celebrated-on-december-25>

**Statement:** What if you still think we don't have enough Christ in Christmas for you?

I do not think any one person has the right to judge how much Christ should be in anyone's Christmas, let them decide. **Romans 14:3-4 (NIV)**

- 14 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

### **3. Why Do Some People Like Christmas?**

- It gives them a license to give, laugh and hang-out

### **4. Why Some People Fight and Get Depressed During Christmas?**

- Families are not often use to being together
- Holidays can become the quiet moment you must face your world
- Holidays can become the quiet moment where losses come back to your mind

### **5. What are your greatest Christmas memories?**

- The kids coming down the hallway to see their gifts
- Running behind new bikes on the street
- Taking trips to special places during the Christmas season

### **6. What if you do not like Christmas?** (Find something else you like and be happy)

### **7. What is the best sermon I have ever preached on Christmas?** (Loosen Up and Enjoy the Holidays)

**Next Time: December 27, 2020:** Repositioned by New Boundaries (Giving Yourself a New Map)

### **Big Questions to Ponder:**

- What are your personal boundaries? (What is your plan, what are you preparing for, and what are your priorities?)
- How good are you at change?
- What needs to be repositioned in your life?