

TRADITIONS 109

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Christian arguments against Christmas

- **God forbids celebrating or observing times:**

Some Christians do not celebrate birthdays or anniversaries because of a misinterpretation of Galatians 4:10-11. The Apostle Paul did not forbid celebrations. Quite the contrary, God originally instituted festivals and feasts to memorialize important events. God is honored when our earthly customs commemorate Him and not pagan deities.

- **Christmas was founded by the Roman Emperor Constantine:**

The celebration of Christ's birth predates Constantine's rule. There is evidence that Christ's birth was celebrated in 200 AD, in the 8th year of Augustus.

- **The date of Christmas**

came from false god worship: Saturn was honored with a Winter Solstice festival. Saturnus (Sun/Moon god) was worshiped December 17-24. The early church chose to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th in order to counteract false god worship. Because no one really knows the exact date of Christ's birth, a date was strategically selected after the Winter Solstice to celebrate Christmas.

- **Celebrating Christmas is pagan:** Some say that we cannot recognize the birth of Christ because of the birth of Tammuz or Nimrod. The biblical story of Christ's birth is not a copy of the earlier account of Nimrod's birth. Similar stories

of virgin born deities resonate throughout pagan cultures because of the enemy's plan to parallel the true story with false accounts.

- **The bible forbids Christmas trees:** "Thus saith the Lord, learn not the way of the heathen.... For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jeremiah 10:1-4).

This passage does not refer to putting a Christmas tree in one's home and decorating it. Rather, it describes the process of making idols from wood. Craftsmen that created idols, in those days, would fasten gold and silver onto wooden carvings. This is a very lucrative business practice even to this day. When you visit foreign countries you can observe idol carvings of wood that are decked in gold or silver. This has nothing to do with a decorated tree. The early

church even decorated palm leaves

for "Palm Sunday", to celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

- **Christmas is not Christ's birthday:** Pagans desire for us to accept that Tammuz, Osiris, Gilgamesh, Saturn, Zeus, Odon, Shiva, etc were all born of a virgin and when you celebrate Christ's birth, you are really celebrating all of their births and not His. False! Christ is the only true, virgin-born king. The other stories are fictitious accounts that attempt to make Jesus' immaculate conception common and not miraculous. We choose to celebrate Christmas,



in order to recognize Christ's birth, as we observe our own birthdays.

Five things to remember during the Christmas Season:

1. **Do not forget Christ** - Christ should be celebrated, first and foremost, during the Christmas season. Though pagans have fought to declare that this season was set aside for false god worship, believers know that we celebrate our Savior's birth on Christmas Day.
2. **Do not spend what you do not have** - No matter how badly it is desired, if you cannot afford it, do not buy it!
3. **Consider those that do not have** - Many do not have money. Some have lost family and friends. And others may be alone. Consider them and pray for God to bless them throughout the Christmas season.
4. **After this season, life goes on** - Do not make decisions based on this season, without considering the future.
5. **The greatest gift** - Give Christ your heart completely. That's the best gift you have to offer.

Summary- We should not get caught up in spending money to prove our love for each other. Time should be set aside to show love toward others, like God showed us, by giving His Son. Christmas is a time to enjoy family and friends. It is a time to show love toward our fellow man. Even though there are many parallels to "the Christmas story", there is one, true story and that is the immaculate conception of Jesus Christ! We choose to celebrate His birth and recognize His coming on the selected date of December 25th.



Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.