

Whose Birthday Celebration Is It?

I remember going to birthday parties as a kid. We'd bring presents, enjoy lots of good food and participate in fun activities. It would always be a festive occasion as we rally around our friend on their special day.

On December 25th we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ – the best friend any of us could ever have. His celebration also includes music, food and gifts – all done with an attitude of worship. I'm grateful to be included in the party.



During the Christmas season people who don't know Jesus want to remove His name as the honored guest at the celebration. Non-Christians don't realize they, too, are invited to the party. Instead of accepting the invitation, they stand on the outside, wanting everyone else to forget whose party it is. They want to substitute the greeting Happy Holiday in place of Merry Christmas. It sounds simple until you look at the words. Happy Holiday celebrates a day off and then you return to your normal routine, the same person you were before. Merry Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Attend His party and you are a different person forever. Christmas without Christ is a world without hope. You can have peace for a day – a holiday -- or peace for a lifetime with Him. There is a big difference.

I am certainly okay with all people giving gifts on December 25th. You don't need to be a Christian to show your love for others. But, I am *not* OK with anyone attempting to remove Christ from my life. I am not sure what a person named Holiday has ever done for anyone but I know what Jesus Christ has done for me. It is cause for celebration. Happy birthday, Jesus. Merry Christmas!

Scripture: *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)*

Question: How strong are you when people try to water down the celebration of Jesus birthday? How do you make sure Christmas and all its festivities celebrate the birth of Christ?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We constantly face assaults on our faith with people trying to take away the focus of our worship. We worship you, Lord. Help us to be strong as we keep the name of Jesus foremost in our lives. Amen.