

## Christmas and the Public Sector

▲Right, ready to be shocked?

I've said Christmas is a worship invention and ought **not** be celebrated by the Church. Check.  
I've said Christmas doesn't really provide a witnessing opportunity for the real Gospel. Check.  
So naturally, I'd like to see Christmas lose status and eventually fade from the scene. Check?

Not so fast. Everything we've said so far is about Christmas as religion, as Christianity. There it fails.

But what about Christmas as an American institution?

▲Although Christians should get Christmas out of their *churches* first and their *homes* second, getting Christmas out of our **nation** is probably something we DON'T want to do.  
Why not?

Christmas as a national event is actually one of the most robust vestiges of our Christian heritage still around.

Now that goes to show just how UN-robust our Christian heritage is these days! A celebration which our mainly Protestant nation has borrowed from Roman Catholicism is certainly a mixed bag. But the Protestant version of the celebration has, strangely, brought the event closer to an evangelical message (not nearly arriving, regrettably).

Quick reminder: Christmas nationwide is STILL a fill-in-the-blank memorial religiously. Pretty much anything goes with what is believed about the Christ of Christmas. That's why it doesn't fly as worship. It invites **harm** into our worship. It promotes the "whatever Jesus means to you" definition of Christianity. That's bad.

But, **WHERE WE ARE TODAY**, it at least connects us to our Christian roots as a nation.

Again, this is a sign of the times. We have fallen SO far from a recognizably Christian foundation, that ANYTHING purportedly maintaining Christ or the Bible is a positive trend.

**W**e've said that Christmas is a lot like a cult religiously. Whatever its message is, it's got a **lotta** baggage: the stinky kind in Hefty bags, waiting on the curb to be hauled away.

**BUT** it's also not run by any central think-tank. There's no Watchtower magazine pulling the strings of Christmas. The **generality** that allows error into Christmas **ALSO** keeps any **specific** error out. In that sense, it's a decidedly less harmful form of heresy.

**S**o: do we side with the Freedom From Religion foundation and fight Christmas? No. We still want Christmas **in** the public sector for the very reason they want it **out**.

It's a compromise, but think of it. The public sector is where Christmas always belonged, if it belonged anywhere, **just like Thanksgiving**. Thanksgiving is a **GREAT** national holiday, right where it's supposed to be!

Unfortunately, Christmas can't be like Thanksgiving, because America had to borrow Christmas from the Church first (where it shouldn't have been) and set it in the public square. Thanksgiving, on the other hand, came right off the pen of a president, readymade as an American acknowledgement of the Christian God: **BEAUTIFUL +**.

Could we just treat Christmas like Thanksgiving? A national holiday that commemorates our Christian roots? No. We can embrace Thanksgiving 100%. It will always only aid true worship. But Christmas began in church- wrongfully. If we let America 'baptize' Christmas for us, we still can't get rid of Christmas' real, unBiblical origins. Specifically, it doesn't belong in our churches or in Christian homes.

**T**he issue is a little like so-called public education. For those who choose a Christian school or home-schooling, we are still very interested in who is on the county board of education. We vote for those who favor our cause. It's not going to make us choose a state-run school for our children, but it still affects us very much. We have much to gain by having Christian-sympathetic folk in *any* government branch.

**H**ow does this pan out annually? I think we're shooting for Christmas to be like a Thanksgiving holiday- just one we can't join.

This presents a strange conundrum. On the one hand, I'm trying to get Christmas out of churches and Christian homes, but on the other hand, if that movement began to succeed, Christmas might lose steam in the public square. (Don't hold your breath, eh?)

However, at that point, we should have recovered a sturdy enough Christianity IN THE CHURCH that we wouldn't need the confusing mixed-bag of Christmas to hold the line against the anti-Christian forces seeking our demise.