Honoring GOD

during the holidays … **ALL** of the holidays.

KEY ISSUE: God does NOT "exempt" holidays from *this* command!

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, *do it **all** for the glory of God*.
1 Cor. 10:31 (NIV)

I THINK HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE "NEUTRAL"!

HONORING GOD WOULD RUIN MY FUN!

HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME TO RELAX AND NOT WORRY ABOUT GOD!

WE SHOULD OBEY THE ATHEISTS AND KEEP GOD OUT!

KEY ISSUE: Your attitude toward *holidays* shows your attitude toward *God!*

- You can expect to find *church-goers* who come up with:
  - **"Exceptions"** to their obligation to honor God.
  - **"Excuses"** for their sin.

BUT IF THE CHURCH ISN'T 100% FAKE…

- You will also find *followers of Jesus* who *hate* it when others dishonor God.
  [They *hate* it because they *love* God.]

EVEN *GOD* HATES IT!

This problem is not new!
The nation of Israel was also filled with fakes.

The Lord says:
"These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me."
Isaiah 29:13a (NIV)

YES, EVEN *GOD* HATES IT!

"I *hate*, I despise your religious feasts;
I cannot stand your assemblies."
Amos 5:21 (NIV)

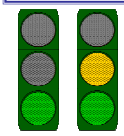
We who follow Jesus can honor God during ALL holidays, not just the "religious" ones.

- After all, don't we claim that we have given *our whole life* to God?
- **NOT THIS!**

This is a characteristic of a FAKE, not a FOLLOWER!

I FOLLOW JESUS … *EXCEPT* FOR WHEN I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY … LIKE DURING HOLIDAYS!

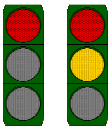
Worldwide, there are *thousands* of holidays.



Some that are good (or close to it).

Some "in the middle."

Some totally sinful (or close to it).



Thousands of holidays…
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 …

Some were created with a desire to honor God.

- The world normally promotes a *counterfeit* or provides a *distraction* to get our focus off God.

Some of these may have questionable origins - such as taking a pagan holiday and "Christianizing" it. But their *intent*, even if misguided, was to honor God.

Thousands of holidays…
… 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002 …

Some do not focus on God, but do not exclude him, either.

- These are not necessarily wrong.

Some dishonor God and are incompatible with following Jesus.

- They may promote God-dishonoring practices or a false religion. Some may be openly "anti-God."

Holidays, celebrations, events…
… 8287, 8288, 8289, 8290 …

Thanksgiving
Serfs Emancipation Day
Black Friday
Alligator Festival
Easter
Spring Break
Boxing Day
Annual BBQ Festival
The Restoration of Independence Day
Earth Day
Donut Day
Groundhog Day
World Music Festival
Halloween
Mardi Gras
Feast of Tabernacles
Garlic Festival
The Prophet's Birthday
Shakespeare Festival
National Day of Repentance
Annual Livermush Festival
Employee Appreciation Day
Oktoberfest
Independence Day
Africa Day
Passover
The Day of the Dead

BASIC PRINCIPLES:
Suggestions for reacting to these holidays.

WHAT ABOUT holidays that dishonor God and are incompatible with following Jesus?

- We *cannot* celebrate these.
- In some cases, the world may persecute us because of our faithfulness to Christ.
- In some cases, we may be able to come up with an alternative celebration – *if it doesn't involve compromise*.

WHAT ABOUT holidays that do not focus on God, but do not exclude him?

- We can include God in our celebration of them.

WHAT ABOUT holidays created with a desire to honor God?

- We can honor God if we celebrate them, *if we do not go after the world's substitutes!*

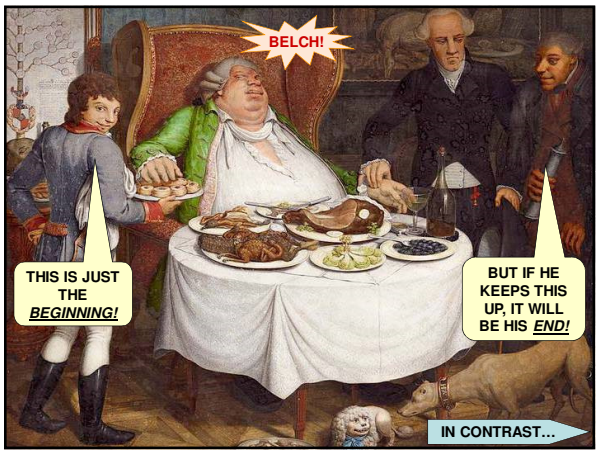
If the holiday has a questionable origin:
People who *don't* celebrate them
are not necessarily wrong.
We do not need to condemn such people.

We need to be aware:
Even GOOD holidays can become an opportunity to sin.

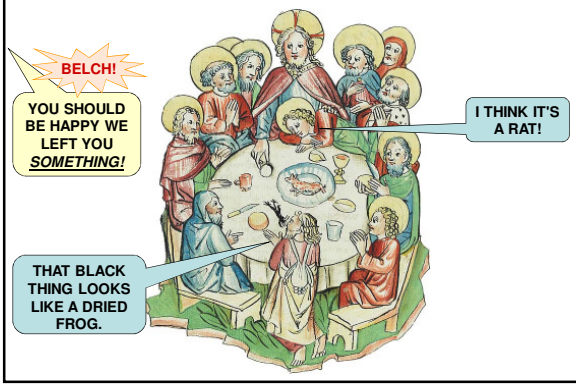
The *way* you celebrate, and the *reasons* you do so, can be sinful.

- **EXAMPLE:** Many people turn good holidays into a time for all kinds of *self-indulgence*.

The following example involves *food*, but there are *many* ways to do this.



Jesus and his kingdom get the leftovers!



- **Another EXAMPLE:** Many people get consumed with rituals and activities that *God never commanded*.
  - ***They give those things more attention than they give God!***
  - When they do this, it's the *world* they are following, not *God!* (The Bible calls it "idolatry.")

WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL THOSE THINGS, INSTEAD OF SIMPLY CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTH?

BECAUSE IT "NEEDS" TO BE DONE!

WHO SAID IT "NEEDS" TO BE DONE? IT WASN'T GOD!

I DON'T CARE WHO SAID IT… IT JUST "NEEDS" TO BE DONE!

YOUR MISSION: AWARE

"Following Jesus" is a "24/7" activity!

- Taking a "holiday" *away from* Jesus is not an option!!!
- Only FAKES can have such an attitude!

I THINK I'LL TAKE A HOLIDAY AWAY FROM JESUS!

I'D LIKE TO SERVE THE DEVIL FOR A COUPLE DAYS!

YOUR MISSION: ASK

IF I WANT TO HONOR GOD:

- What am I doing? Does it honor God?

IF IT DOESN'T HONOR GOD:

- Do I need to stop doing it? **OR…**
- Can I *change* the way I do it?
  Is there something else I can do in its place?

Credits (1)

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