

What Should be the Christian Response to Pagan Celebrations

The next five sentences is a brief conversation of “Person 1” and “Person 2” expressing their opinion of a news report that said a particular individual did not want schools to celebrate Christmas, and other American Holidays, because they see the celebration as based on pagan origins! Please read on, and “you decide”!

Person 1

Has the whole nation gone off the deep end! The celebrations are of good things; a time of family and reflections!

Person 2

No they all stem from pagan festivals and repackaged to look good. I don't need to recognize some festival to be with family. That's just an excuse to ignore and not recognize what these things really are underneath.

Person 1

What is underneath is what we put underneath. If we put evil underneath then evil will be underneath. If someone took the day off to rob a bank, it does not make it wrong for me to take the same day off to celebrate at the beach!

Person 2

You don't get it. Apple's and oranges. Celebrating a pagan holiday calling it something different doesn't change what it is.

Person 1

Why not? I did not purpose anything pagan! It is a day like any other day that the LORD has made, I will rejoice in Him, and be glad in it!

In my mind Person 1 does, “get it”! But it is for you to decide for yourself. And may I offer Apostle Paul’s teaching on idol worship to express my conviction as follows:

Apostle Paul on Idol Worship

1Corinthians Chapter 8

An idol or idols are nothing. Notice Paul says the idol or idols are nothing; but idol worship establishes disobedience and erodes knowledge/ wisdom of the True God of Creation. Thus, it is the worship part that is evil! Disobedience to God is founded with the inventor of all disobedience, which is Satan the devil, Therefore, worship of anything other than the Almighty God of Creation is idol worship, and devilish according Satan’s disobedience!

1Co 8:1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge (*alone*) puffeth up (*with pride*), but charity (*love*) edifieth

(and purposes to deliver good for your fellow man; but especially to your fellow believers).

1Co 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

1Co 8:3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him (*God*).

1Co 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we (*that have knowledge*) know that an idol *is* nothing in the world (*or an idol is without self awareness, purpose, and have no life, or power*), and that *there is* none other God but one (*and it is He that is Creator and the Father of Jesus, our LORD and Savior*).

1Co 8:5 For though there be that (*which*) are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) (*because men, by their actions, create/ give them status and substance above our True God*)

1Co 8:6 But to us (*that believe in Christ Jesus*) *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom all things (*exists*), and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we (*can continue to live only*) by him.

1Co 8:7 Howbeit *there is* not in every man that knowledge (*cited in 1Corinthians 8:6*): for some with conscience (*or awareness*) of the idol unto this hour eat as a thing (*or action(s)*) offered unto an idol (*to give the idol status and honor as God over themselves, and over our true God*); and their conscience being weak is defiled (*and they are damaged, and damage others*).

1Co 8:8 But meat (*eating*) commendeth us not to (*or gives us no advantage toward*) God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

1Co 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak (*or allow status, or place for idols over our true God*).

1Co 8:10 For if any man see thee (*or you*) which (*or who*) hast knowledge (*of the fact that idols are nothing*) sit at meat (*eating*) in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened (*persuaded*) to eat (*and then trust*) those things which are offered to idols (*rather than trust the True God of Creation*);

1Co 8:11 And (*then*) through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? (*or because you know there is nothing to idols, but your brother knows no such thing, as you do; therefore, you should not eat the meat to idols for the sake of your weak brother, that he not perish*)

1Co 8:12 But when ye sin so (*or in this way*) against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

1Co 8:13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend (*God*), I will eat no flesh while the world standeth (*or remain as it is in unbelief*), lest I make my brother to offend (*the True God of Heaven, because he give idols power over him*).

1Corinthians Chapter 10

Paul's dedication to serving the True God of Creation in making known the salvation, deliverance, forgiveness of sin by His grace through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, overthrows the notion that there is any benefit of idol worship for the human race!

- 1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers (*Israel's ancestors*) were under the cloud (*by day, and pillow of fire by night: Exodus 13:21 and 13:22*), and all passed through the (*Red*) sea (*when the hand of God parted it; the Red Sea, by Moses*);
- 1Co 10:2 And were all (*our ancestors*) baptized (*committed*) unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- 1Co 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat (*or provisions from God*);
- 1Co 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ (*Jesus according to ordinances/ laws God gave to Moses for the people to live by; until Jesus should come*).
- 1Co 10:5 But with many of them (*our ancestors*) God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown (*died*) in the wilderness (*for their murmuring/ disobedience against the will of God; not believing/ trusting God*).
- 1Co 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they (*our ancestors*) also lusted (*which included idol worship*).
- 1Co 10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play (*at worshiping God by turning to idol worship, which can never have benefit; but is always an offense to our True God*).
- 1Co 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication (*of the flesh, and/ or spirit of idols*), as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand (*320, 000 souls*).
- 1Co 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ (*Jesus*), as some of them (*our ancestors*) also tempted (*God in their wilderness/ unbelief, and in the desert(s) of Egypt*), and were destroyed of serpents (*Numbers 21:8 and 21:9*).
- 1Co 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer (*or the devil, through their behavior of disobedience like the devil?*).
- 1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them (*our ancestors*) for ensamples (*example*): and they are written for our admonition (*warning*), upon whom the ends of the world are come.
- 1Co 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth (*without fault*) take heed lest he fall.

No one's temptation's today were absent from previous world populations

- 1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it* (*your temptation*).
- 1Co 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.
- 1Co 10:15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.
- 1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ (*Jesus*)? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ (*Jesus*)?
- 1Co 10:17 For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread (*or source of life, the Lord Jesus Christ; not idols, because they have no power to deliver*).

And therefore, we are not to have any fellowship with devils, nor spirit of devils:

- 1Co 10:18 Behold Israel after *(or according to)* the flesh: are not they *(Israel)* which eat of the sacrifices *(herds, or flocks from which the sacrifices are taken,)* partakers of the altar *(at Jerusalem)*?
- 1Co 10:19 What say I then *(or what am I saying)*? *(I am saying)* that the idol is *(or can be)* any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is *(or can be)* any thing!
- 1Co 10:20 But *(then)* that the *(any)* things which the Gentiles *(pagan)* sacrifice, they sacrifice *(it)* to devils, and not to *(the true)* God *(of Israel, and heaven)*: and I *(Paul)* would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.
- 1Co 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.
- 1Co 10:22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? *(in other words, we should not provoke the Lord to jealousy!)* are we stronger than he *(or we are not His master, but He is our Master and God)*?
- 1Co 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. *(Paul is saying, I am committed to serving the Lord God Almighty of Creation, and therefore idols mean nothing to me; but fellowship with one without this knowledge, who gives place to idols, convinces him that I join him in his devilish idol worshipping behavior (because it has meaning with him). Therefore, for the chance that I might save him to Jesus, I avoid any appearance of approving/ associating with idols, which I know provokes disobedience to God, our True Creator).*

So then, since idols mean nothing to the person with "true knowledge" of God: Preoccupation with whether something is dedicated to idols is unnecessary for me; except for gaining that one without knowledge of our True God of Creation?

- 1Co 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *(good will, success, and victory because of love)*.
- 1Co 10:25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles *(or slaughterhouses/ by butchers)*, that eat, asking no question for *(your)* conscience sake: *(the best I can express this is by the present day vernacular: what you do not know, will not concern you!)*
- 1Co 10:26 For the earth *(belong to, or is)* the Lord's *(not idols)*, and the fulness thereof.
- 1Co 10:27 If any of them that believe not *(the Gospel of Jesus)* bid you *to a feast*, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for *(your)* conscience sake.
- 1Co 10:28 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his *(your brother's)* sake that shewed it, and for *(his)* conscience sake: for the earth *(belong to, or is)* the Lord's *(not idols)*, and the fulness thereof:
- 1Co 10:29 Conscience *(in the previous verse 10:28)*, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged *(taken away)* of another *man's* conscience *(lack of true knowledge/ misunderstanding/ immaturity)*?
- 1Co 10:30 For if I by grace be a partaker *(of what God has provided; knowing the idol provides nothing)*, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks *(to our True God of Creation)*?
- 1Co 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of *(our True)* God *(of Creation)*. *This is the day that the LORD has made, I will rejoice in Him, and be glad in it (the day and the LORD)!*

1Co 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God (*or do not offend any, “Jews, Gentiles, or the Church”*):

1Co 10:33 Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

Foundational References:

- King James Version of the Bible
- Author’s Previously Published Works
 - A Testimony of Jesus; Messiah, Son of the Living God. Published, Dec. 30, 2013:
<https://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w=9781629020723>)
Or
http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Jimmie+Jennings&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3AJimmie+Jennings
 - Separation From God Has NO Victory; But the Invitation of John 3:16 Remains, July 2014:
http://www.amazon.com/Separation-God-Has-Victory-Invitation-ebook/dp/B00MBXW4S0/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1417295984&sr=8-5&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings
 - Gog Magog, and Armageddon; Origins of End Time Battles, Men; and Judgments of God, April 2014:
http://www.amazon.com/Gog-Magog-Armageddon-Origins-Judgments/dp/1500456438/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1416955154&sr=8-6&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings&pebp=1416956467515
 - A Testimony of Jesus 2; His Abundant Love, Work, and Prophecy, Sept 2014:
http://www.amazon.com/Testimony-Jesus-Abundant-Love-Prophecy-ebook/dp/B00NB5VKPA/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1416955154&sr=8-1&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings&pebp=1416956546805
 - A Study of John’s Revelation; End of Kingdoms Ruled by Men, Sept 2014:
http://www.amazon.com/Study-John-Revelation-Kingdoms-Ruled-ebook/dp/B00NDA0IEC/ref=sr_1_9?ie=UTF8&qid=1416955154&sr=8-9&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings&pebp=1416956631982
 - A Testimony of Jesus 3: Jesus in the Pages of Genesis, March 2015:
http://www.amazon.com/Testimony-Jesus-Pages-Genesis/dp/1508859329/ref=sr_1_2_twi_2_pap?ie=UTF8&qid=1430933014&sr=8-2&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings

- A Testimony of Jesus 4: Jesus and His Disciples (Harvesting Fields 1), June 2015:
http://www.amazon.com/Testimony-Jesus-Disciples-Harvesting-Fields/dp/1514278642/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1433892002&sr=8-1&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings
- A Testimony of Jesus 5: Jesus and His Disciples (Harvesting Fields 2), June 2015:
http://www.amazon.com/Testimony-Jesus-Disciples-Harvesting-Fields/dp/1514297922/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1438899374&sr=8-3&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings
- A Testimony of Jesus 6: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem (Jeremiah in Perils), August 2015:
http://www.amazon.com/Testimony-Jesus-Jerusalem-Jeremiah-Perils/dp/1516941934/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1441653467&sr=8-1&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings
- A Testimony of Jesus 7: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem (Daniel; Visions and Dreams), September 2015:
http://www.amazon.com/Testimony-Jesus-Jerusalem-Daniel-Visions/dp/1517307376/ref=sr_1_10?ie=UTF8&qid=1450199882&sr=8-10&keywords=Jimmie+Jennings+books
- My Website – www.jkejennings-author.com
- Specific articles on My Website
 - God Has Judged All Things_Aug 2013
 - Disobedient or Obedient Creatures of God
 - Darkness Fails to Comprehend
 - Dry Bones Of Israel Raised Up_37
 - What About the Rapture
 - Are You in A Fog Over the Rapture
 - Evil Unsealed Revealed and ReSealed
 - Probation of Satan & Sin Until Armageddon
 - The Final Half of Daniels 70th Week
 - Jesus in the Pages of the Books (1 of XX)
 - Jesus in the Pages of the Books (2 of XX)
 - Jesus in the Pages of the Books (3 of XX)
 - Jesus in the Pages of the Books (4 of XX)
 - But Whom Do You Say I Am
 - Believing Jesus but not Zealous for Him
 - Believing Jesus but not Zealous for Him 2
 - Apostle Paul's Book to Romans
 - Harvesting Fields in the Face of Adversity
 - Self Esteem or Self Pride
 - The Kingdom of God is not by Force

- A Dedication to Ministry_1Corinth 9
- The Apostle Paul on Marriage
- Apostle Paul on Resurrection of the Dead
- Apostle Paul on Charity
- Timeline of Jacob and Joseph
- The God I Serve
- Another Prophecy by Isaiah
- The 23rd Year of Jeremiah's Prophecy
- Daniel Predicted Nation of History
- Are We Seeing Prophecy in the News
- Others, take a look!