

Santa Claus: the most universally recognized god

'Twas the night before Tradition, when all through the home,
Not a Bible page was turning, just some silly poem;
The stockings were hung by the chimney without care
That Jesus the Saviour soon could be there;

Is there anything wrong with doing something because it is a tradition?
Is there anything wrong with doing something and not know why you are doing it?
Before we look at Christmas, let us look at tradition in general.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 2

8 **Beware** lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the **tradition** of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

I PETER CHAPTER 1

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed ... from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, ...

How do I recognize a tradition of men that I need to beware of and avoid?

Is there a definition for this type of tradition?

MARK CHAPTER 7

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the **tradition** of men, ...

9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own **tradition**.

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your **tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 15

6 ... Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

If a tradition breaks a commandment of God or breaches God's law then do not do it. What these verses go on to say is that if performing a tradition means you do not have time for the commandments of God and that you have to "lay aside" the commandments of God that you can now put time into your tradition, then do not do that either. As an example,

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1

13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the **traditions** of my fathers.

Paul persecuted and wasted the church of God, which he found out later was a big mistake, because he was zealously upholding his traditions, as he says.

If you think it is alright to hang on to some of your past traditions before knowing about Christ and becoming a Christian then think about would you want Paul to hang on to any part of his traditions that he used to persecute the church?

Problems with having even a little bit of Santa at Christmas time

★ What the parents do in moderation, the children will do in excess.

This is more of a Biblical guideline than a solid doctrine. What it means here is if you have, say, 90% Jesus and 10% Santa at Christmas time, you will NOT be teaching children that they must only have a little bit of Santa; you will be teaching children that it is okay to have Santa. And it should not come as a surprise if or when they end up filling their whole Christmas time with the Santa tradition.

EZEKIEL CHAPTER 18

2 ... The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

JEREMIAH CHAPTER 7

26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

JUDGES CHAPTER 2

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, *that* they returned, and corrupted *themselves* more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

I KINGS CHAPTER 12

14 ... My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father *also* chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

I KINGS CHAPTER 22

52 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:

53 For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

II KINGS CHAPTER 21

20 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh did.

21 And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them:

22 And he forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the LORD.

II KINGS CHAPTER 22

2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

II CHRONICLES CHAPTER 20

32 And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD.

EZEKIEL CHAPTER 16

44 ¶ Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use *this* proverb against thee, saying, As *is* the mother, so *is* her daughter.

47 Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as *if that were* a very little *thing*, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways.

51 Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.

52 Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 22

6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2

22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

JOHN CHAPTER 5

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

JOHN CHAPTER 8

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

...

44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. ...

★ The Excitement Clause.

This is just a term to describe the following scenario.

When explaining to children that Christmas means we must think about the birth of Jesus Christ, it is stated in a serious (boring) tone of voice. But when it comes time to looking forward to Santa Claus coming with lots of gifts, it is stated with lots of emotion (excitement)! Can you see what that will encourage a child towards?

★ Santa Claus coming to town is telling a LIE to children.

It is bad enough if you go ahead and tell the lie of Santa. But when you point to gifts in the stocking or under the Christmas tree and say here is proof that Santa is real and visited us during the night, then that is when you do not just tell a lie, you maketh a lie.

REVELATION CHAPTER 21

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it [that great city out of heaven] any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or ***maketh*** a lie: ...

REVELATION CHAPTER 22

15 For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and ***maketh*** a lie.

★ A False Gospel.

Think about it. Santa "knows if you've been bad or good". Santa's "going to find out who's naughty or nice". If you have been good then Santa is going to bring you presents on Christmas Eve. Therefore if you have received gifts (and have you ever known anyone who has not) then you must be good. What do I need Jesus for?

On the other hand, God says there is none good (MATTHEW 19:17) and that salvation is a gift from God given purely out of love and kindness (EPHESIANS 2:4-9), not based on the recipient being good.

Where did Santa Claus come from?

Odin : The Allfather, a singular god that acts as a king or leader over many other gods. He spent the year in a distant land, Valhalla, returning on the eve of the Winter Solstice to lead the Wild Hunt through the skies at night accompanied with elves and beasts and spirits of the dead to judge the souls of the living: who was good and who was evil. His great horse, Sleipnir (The Sliding One), had eight legs and the ability to gallop through the air and over the sea.

Feast of Saturnalia : (BC217 onwards) yearly holiday at the time of the Winter Solstice. It was a pagan tradition by the Romans dedicated to their god Saturn involving drunkenness, debauchery, merry-making, and gift-giving. The beginning of December was used to prepare including the purchase of Sigilla, small terracotta figures of deities or heroes, from the Sigillaria market, to be given as gifts. Candles not only represented the light of the sun-god (not the Son of God) but each individual's quest for righteousness (not the righteousness of Christ).

Dies Natalis Solis Invicti : Birthday of the Unconquered Sun was made an official holiday on December 25 (Winter Solstice) to the sun-god by Roman Emperor Aurelian (AD274-275). Catholic Church Pope Julius I declared December 25 will be the date to celebrate the Christ Mass (Christmas) and the birth of Christ (AD350).

Puck / Robin Goodfellow : (1531 onwards) pagan trickster. All his work is done at night time and his mocking, echoing laugh is "Ho ho ho!". Puck, also known as Robin Goodfellow or Hobgoblin, is a character in William Shakespeare's play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (1595-1596). Again, Puck's trademark laugh in early ballads (1612-1639) is "Ho ho ho!". After Giacomo Meyerbeer's opera 'Robert le Diable' (Robert the Devil 1831), neo-medievalists and occultists began to apply the name Robin Goodfellow to the Devil.

Saint Nicholas of Myra (AD270MAR15-AD343DEC06) : Catholic bishop who received a wealthy inheritance from parents who died in a plague. Legend has it that there was a poor man who had three daughters and he could not afford any dowry for them to get married. The eldest daughter asked her father to sell her as a slave to provide dowry for her sisters. The poor man was very upset at this prospect so he prayed to God to help his daughters get married. Nicholas hears this prayer and, in order to help, he secretly at night throws a bag of gold coins through the window which apparently landed in the daughter's stocking. Being poor, stockings would need to be washed daily and hung up to dry ready to be worn again the next day. Legend also has Nicholas resurrecting three boys who were slaughtered and pickled for meat by a butcher during a famine. Nicholas was canonised (AD800's) to Saint Nicholas (Catholic doctrine) or simply recognized as a saint before regular Catholic canonisation procedures began in AD1000's. He became the patron saint of children. He became a favourite saint because of his wealth and generosity and healing power. December 6 became his Feast Day (another Catholic doctrine). Children were given gifts in honour of Saint Nicholas. This was usually done the night before December 6. This may have started by Nuns in France.

Feast Day of Saint Nicholas : (1500's) became popular in Netherlands, a Roman Catholic country. Children now believe Sint Niklaas (Saint Nicholas) rode on a horse along the rooftops listening for good children singing. He wore a tall pointy bishop's hat and had a white beard. Dutch children would fill their clogs with straw and leave it out for the horse to eat. Next morning they would find the straw gone and their clogs filled with presents. Initially, Saint Nicholas was the bringer of gifts for good children and the bringer of punishment for bad children but then a book of illustrated poems by an Amsterdam teacher gave the role of punisher to Zwarte Piet (Black Peter). Elsewhere, this role is given to Krampus (half demon, half goat).

The Protestant Reformation (1529) objected to honouring Roman Catholic saints and feast days. Therefore the Saint Nicholas Feast Day was forbidden outside but not forbidden inside the house. Martin Luther (1483-1546) a Protestant reformer moved the Saint Nicholas feast and gift-giving tradition to December 25 to try and bring more focus to Jesus Christ and to try and displace the Feast of Saturnalia.

Washington Irving : The legend of Sinter Klaas (translation = Saint Sir Klaas) travelled to the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (1664), modern-day New York City. In his book 'Knickerbocker's History of New York' (1809), Washington Irving referenced a Sinter Klaas flying across the sky in a wagon pulled by horses and dropping presents down chimneys for good boys and girls. The English settlers of New York continued to adopt the Dutch tradition of Sinter Klaas (transliteration = Santa Claus).

Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863) : wrote the poem 'A Visit From Saint Nicholas' which was published in the New York Sentinal (1823DEC23). The poem now imagines the tradition of an old Saint Nicholas with a white beard in a flying sleigh with eight reindeer. He comes down the chimney himself with a sack of toys to fill the stockings hung by the chimney. His bishop robe is changed for a fur outfit.

Thomas Nast (1840-1902) : American cartoonist, drew his interpretation of Santa for promotion in Harper's Weekly (1863-1903). Santa lost the image of a bishop and became a grandfather-like figure. Elsewhere, an editorial by Francis Pharcellus Church appeared in The New York Sun (1887) titled 'Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.'. With the media onboard, this solidified the act of making children believe Santa is real.

Coca-Cola : commissioned illustrator Haddon Sundblom to paint pictures of Santa for Christmas advertisements (1931-1964) to get people to buy their drink in the winter time. Elsewhere, Robert L May, a copywriter at the Montgomery Ward Department Store wrote a promotional children's book 'Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer' (1939) to lure Christmas shoppers into the store. Your Christmas tradition is now being manipulated by commercial interests.

Who is Santa Claus?

Parts of the story of Odin +
Parts of the story of Puck and the devil +
Parts of the story of Saint Nicholas and Catholic tradition +
Parts of the story of Coca-Cola + etc
= Santa Claus.

There is more going on here than just having Santa continue a tradition of gift-giving. Santa has been made into a god:
ETERNAL - Santa has no birth date and Santa never dies (I JOHN 5:20).
OMNISCIENT - Santa knows if you have been bad or good, naughty or nice.
OMNIPRESENT - Santa delivers gifts to all around the world at once.
OMNIPOTENT - Santa can make reindeer fly. Santa can pass through the fire (LEVITICUS 18:21) on the hearth to get into your home, much like the goddess Hertha who descended through the smoke of any fire and brought gifts.

Christmas Illegal

THE COMPLAINT OF CHRISTMAS

Friday *the Four and twentieth day of* December, 1652.

Resolved by the Parliament,

That no Observation shall be had of the Five and twentieth day of *December*, commonly called *Christmas-Day*; nor any Solemnity used or exercised in Churches upon that Day in respect thereof.

[England 1652]

PUBLICK NOTICE

The Observation of CHRISTMAS having been deemed a Sacrilege, the exchanging of Gifts and Greetings, dressing in Fine Clothing, Feasting and similar Satanical Practices are hereby

FORBIDDEN

with the Offender liable to a Fine of FIVE SHILLINGS

[Massachusetts 1659]

What The Scriptures Say About Christmas

EZEKIEL CHAPTER 8

13 ¶ He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.

14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which *was* toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

15 ¶ Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

Worship of the sun-god on the same day as being in the Lord's house = abomination.

EXODUS CHAPTER 32

3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* unto Aaron.

4 And he received *them* at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

5 And when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow *is* a feast to the LORD.

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

7 ¶ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*:

Having a false idol, like Santa, but still calling it a feast to the Lord = corruption.

JEREMIAH CHAPTER 10

HEAR ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

3 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.

4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

5 They *are* upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also *is it* in them to do good.

Christmas trees are the way of the heathen.

REVELATION CHAPTER 11

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them [the two dead prophets], and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

People use the Christmas tradition to rejoice over God's prophets being dead.

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 7

25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold *that is* on them, nor take *it* unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it *is* an abomination to the LORD thy God.

26 Neither shalt thou bring an abominaton into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: *but* thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it *is* a cursed thing.

If you know you do not believe in their god then you still cannot use their silver or gold in celebration of your God.

If you can give the silver or gold a Christian meaning then you still cannot have it.

Even if you say, God knows what is in my heart, it is still an abomination to God.

I JOHN CHAPTER 2

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that santa shall come, even now are there many santas; ...

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is santa, that denieth the Father and the Son.

I JOHN CHAPTER 4

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of santa, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

II JOHN

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and a santa.

IN SUMMARY : Just look at the name of the holiday,

Merry = given to drunkenness (see references below).

Christmas = Christ Mass = Roman Catholic service of the eucharist; the supposed transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the literal body and blood of Christ (in breach of HEBREWS 9:28, 10:10, 7:26-27).

GENESIS CHAPTER 43 [First mention of merry in the Bible]

34 ... And they **drank**, and were **merry** with him.

RUTH CHAPTER 3

7 And when Boaz had eaten and **drunk**, and his heart was **merry**, ...

I SAMUEL CHAPTER 25

36 ... and Nabal's heart *was* **merry** within him, for he *was* very **drunken**: ...

II SAMUEL CHAPTER 13

28 ... Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is **merry with wine**, ...

ESTHER CHAPTER 1

10 ¶ On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was **merry with wine**, ...

LUKE CHAPTER 12

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, **drink, and be merry**.

20 But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: ...