

Who Says We Don't Celebrate Christmas?

Carl McMurray

Don't you get tired of people asking, "Why don't you celebrate Christmas in the church of Christ?" I'd like to know who it is that's going around telling people that. Why just this past week I was outside in the cold stringing little green mini-lights around some little green mini-trees in front of my house. I usually hang some from the house, but thought I'd do something different (and easier) this year. There's a little tree in the den and holiday wrapped packages have already started appearing around it. The conversational topic of "What are we having for Christmas dinner?" has already come and gone this year and a trip to be with family has already firmed itself up. I think I'm celebrating Christmas.

Now if the question is, "Why don't you celebrate Christmas *in the church of Christ?*" then I can see the logic of asking and it is easily answered. Since we're trying to be a new testament church and the new testament says nothing about celebrating his birth, but everything about celebrating his death each Lord's day, the 'church' doesn't celebrate Christmas. There's nothing biblical about "the church" celebrating Christmas and anyone who thinks there is needs to come up with book, chapter, and verse as to why "the church" should be saddled with this celebration that God chose not to mention.

If the question is, "Why don't you put up a nativity scene as your Christmas decoration?" then once again, the question is easily answered. My nativity scene would just look kind of bare. There wouldn't be any wise men in my nativity scene because the Bible teaches they never made it to the manger scene of Jesus' birth. When they visited our Lord, they visited him in THE HOUSE where the family was staying and as long as two years after his birth according to what they told King Herod. There also wouldn't be any shepherds in my nativity scene coming in from the field to visit baby Jesus because in December it is winter in Israel and the shepherds wouldn't have been out in the fields in the first place. This imaginary business about Jesus being born in December really messes up a good manger scene, doesn't it? With no wise men, no gifts in boxes and bags, no camels, no shepherds, and just a hungry donkey with a baby in his feed box at the wrong time of the year for such an event to have even taken place, it just doesn't seem worth the trouble to put up such an out of place manger scene.

But never let it be said that I don't celebrate Christmas. I'm out there buying gifts, planning meals, taking holidays and commercializing with the best. I'm just not dragging my Lord and Savior into imaginary scenarios and man-made spiritualizing. Now, let me get back to my Christmas celebrating. Romans 14:5-6