



Around the Advent and Christmas season it's very common to see the post “**Keep Christ in Christmas.**” Do we really need to be reminded of this? Sounds kind of strange to me, celebrating Christmas and not knowing the reason for it! Secular world today tends to make all our celebrations of faith secular in nature as well. As strange as it may sound but, definitely people need to be reminded of the true message of Christmas. Christmas has been commercialized to the degree that the real message is lost and forgotten. Christmas shopping till the last minute makes a good success for many businesses. There is nothing wrong with Christmas shopping, gifts, food, fun, etc. But all is done to the point of removing the real reason which is Jesus then all is in vain. Remove Jesus from Christmas and all you have is nothing but a secular celebration.

Jesus is the primary reason for Christmas, without His birth there would be no Christmas celebration. Christmas is celebrating the Incarnation-the fact that “the Word became flesh and lived among us.” Christmas is God’s love for humans. God gave His Son to us as a gift. He gave Jesus to us because we are His beloved. We are so dear to Him that His Son came from heaven to us as plan A and not plan B to combat sin. He came to show and share the love of His Father to us. How blessed we are that Almighty and Powerful God, He humbled in His Son, took the human flesh for the sake of sinful humanity. Christmas is an invitation to be humble like our Almighty God.

Ten months since the bloody war in Ukraine and yet no signs of stopping it. There is a hard cry of the earth everywhere and ecological crises are at rise at record breaks. Thousands of lives have been lost because of war and ecological disasters. Such evils prevail in our world as a result of not keeping Christ and His teachings as the guiding principles in our lives. Is it right to celebrate Christmas amidst such evils? Yes, we should celebrate Christmas with its true spirit because ‘Incarnation’ gives us HOPE to live for God. Keep Christ not only in Christmas but all through life as the Lord of life. Allow Him to rule and reign in life. As long as the world fails to keep God and His ordinances as the guiding principles to a holy and worthy life, the world will keep on moving in the wrong direction. God does not condemn us because we sin, we condemn ourselves because we do not repent.

St. Francis of Assisi prior to his conversion lived a worldly life but the very moment he embraced Christ in the leper, everything bitter and nauseating turned into sweetness of his soul. From that moment in everything he saw the work of God. His old self died leading him to become a new creation. He experienced the love of God and shared this love by inviting the people of Greccio to behold the poor Christ in the manger and sing with him like the choirs of angels the praises of God Almighty.

We need to celebrate Christmas in the way the Church intends, as a way to grow in our relationship with God, keeping Him in the center of life, taking His love from the manger to where we live and sharing joy, peace and forgiveness. **Let everything we do; every gift we send, every party we attend, every meal we share-remind us of God’s love and gift of His Son Jesus whose birthday we celebrate. Wish you a Merry Christmas...God Bless.**

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