

315 Faith Discipleship: "Holidays & Christians"

March. 19th 40-45 minutes

(Question): Holidays

What is a Holiday? How would you tell someone what a Holiday is?

- a day of festivity or recreation when no work is done.
- a day fixed by law or custom on which ordinary business is suspended in commemoration of some event or in honor of some person. any day of exemption from work
- a day for celebrating or remembering a special event, especially one on which many people are allowed not to go to work or school: the Fourth of July holiday. There are several holidays which revolve around religious events/dates.

Key Truth:

"Holidays, like many other aspects of our culture, can hold various levels of *grey area* for Christians. As with other worldview subjects - a Believer must weigh their motivation, activity, & conviction against what they know to be true & in line with scriptural."

Note: Many of the Holidays that we are aware of and celebrate or observe hold ties to old, if not ancient, cult & occult practices & pagan rituals. The foundations of many things we see as harmless and normal actually had their foundations rooted in beliefs and religious practice we wouldn't want anything to do with. ALSO, through the years, many of our ideas and customs have been sculpted and morphed - Lots of our holidays have had a heavy dose of the Catholic Church rearranging or editing things to arrive at something you recognize today. Sometimes the church would "arrange" things for a holiday to crush a pagan holiday...and of course most of this is ancient history which is also twisted and turned and pieced together.

- Where do you think Christmas Trees and Wreaths came from?

What we want to try to give a few moments thought to is? With what we know, how do we develop a worldview for holidays?

Our end goal here is to always keep Christ front and center and not compromise our faith, beliefs, & our witness.

St. Patrick's Day

Video

[The Story of St. Patrick](#) (4 mins)

Video

[Should Christians celebrate St. Patrick's Day](#) (7+mins)

(Question):

Do you or your family celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

(Question):

Have you ever thought of St. Patrick's Day as a religious observance? A Christian Holiday?

Wonder why we don't think of it in that way? Any ideas?

- Patrick was a dude, a dude with a cool story and a pretty cool ministry if this story is true. That's part of it "If it's true" there are lots of St. Patrick stories out there, some of them are a little weird, some of them a Southern Baptist theologian might question some of what he thought/taught. There is even a theory that there may have been several Patricks over the years who continued the ministry work and their stories were added on to an "original" Patrick to give us the character we remember today.
- Also, We tend to give adoration and praise to one person - The person of Christ. Think about it. Patrick (if all is true and accurate and not weird messed up theology) Patrick was awesome.....more awesome than Paul or Peter?
- To that note...why don't we have a Martyrs Holiday....remembering all those who have given or lost their life for the Gospel? - just a thought

(Question):

How St. Patrick's Day is most often thought of & Practiced in culture today... Is it ok, anything wrong with it? - Discuss

Valentine's Day

Video:

[Can We celebrate Valentine's Day](#)

(Question): Several things here this guy says that were good. Lets look at two.

- He said "another version....." a couple of times. Any of these holidays around a person (especially a Saint of the Catholic church) will have multiple origin stories. Many times what we perceive as the reality or truth of an ancient character is found to be a collection of various takes on the person combined
- Between you & God - This is gold. Whatever you do, believe, practice, etc.. should come down to you and God. Can you reconcile / justify this honestly to God? - answer that, and you'll know what's cool or not cool.

Halloween

(Question): Who here likes Halloween? Discuss

Video

[Should Christians celebrate Halloween](#) (3 mins)

Video

[Dr. Albert Mohler on Halloween](#) (2 mins)

(Question): Is Halloween Pagan? What does Pagan even mean?

- Yes it is. A Pagan is someone who worships many gods, nature, the earth - their religious beliefs fall outside that of the normally accepted gods and faiths. Wicca, Satanism, Polytheist, ...if you were a druid priest living in a forest... you're a pagan.

(Question): How can Christians celebrate or participate in such a holiday - discuss.

Jewish Holidays

(Question):

Video: (1 min)

[Should we keep the Jewish Holidays](#)

Video: (2mins)

[Jewish Feasts](#)

** The Easter Egg Hunt Story from Reid

*** Are we keeping Christ First?? Are we compromising our principles??