Taking Christ out of Christmas

Celebration of Christmas has changed greatly the last 50 years in America. In Christmas shows, decorations, programs Christ is taken out. Most stress and busyness of this time of year has nothing to do with Christ. Many Christians try to stress putting Christ back into Christmas.

I. The world dictates most of the way that we celebrate Christmas
   A. Even in so-called religious holidays world adds many things to them
      1. Easter - world added many non-Christ things
   B. It seems to go against our nature to make things simpler
      1. Is our thinking dictated by Christ or world? Rom. 12:2; Phil. 2:5
   C. We are all by nature works driven people - like Israel - Romans 10:1-3
      1. Almost impossible for us to ever simplify something
   D. There are 3 main principles that define world's celebration of Christmas
      1. Materialism - Opposed to Christ- 2 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Cor. 4:18
      2. Hedonism - 2 Timothy 3:4; Opposite of Christ- Romans 15:2, 3
      3. Humanism - Matthew 10:34 - 36;
      4. Example- Santa Claus - Teaches lying, giving him God's attributes

II. Scripture nowhere commands us to celebrate Christ's Birth
   A. Only two events in Christ's life- we are commanded to celebrate
      1. Lord's Death- We remember that in celebrating Lord's Supper
      2. Lord's Resurrection-Remembered every time we meet on Lord's Day
         a. Matthew 28:1; Revelation 1:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2
      3. So celebrating Christmas is not being obedient to Biblical Command
   B. There is no evidence that proves December 25th is Christ's birthday
      1. Most agreed that this date came about because of pagan celebration
         a. No evidence of celebration of this in the early church
      2. Many if not most of the puritan's opposed the celebration
   C. The word Christmas is shortened from the longer 'Christ - mass"
      1. That is why to many Christians "xmas" is preferable
         a. Don't like to link Christ to the mass in any kind of way
   D. Bible only mentions the actual birthdays of two men

III. Some Principles to Help us in our Celebrating of this day
   A. There are legitimate differences among Christians over celebrating days
      1. Romans 14:5, 6 - Church shouldn't bind either way
   B. We should always keep in mind observance of the 2nd commandment
      1. Should be careful of things like nativity scenes, mangers etc.
   C. Christian's have a right to use Christmas as means to propogate gospel
      1. Can use world's acknowledgement

Conclusion: We can celebrate Christmas same manner of Halloween
   A. We don't usually get upset about Christ being taken out of Halloween
      1. But there is liberty as to how people observe this
   B. No prohibition about giving gifts- having a tree- decorating etc.
   C. Realize the keeping of Lord's Day is commanded- not Christmas
   D. Make sure that we don't get in bondage over these things