

THE CHRISTMAS PROBLEM

Romans 14:1-9

What is the "Christmas problem"?

- for the ACLU
- for school principals
- for Christians

Argument of these verses concerning two issues on which Christians disagreed: eating meat & celebrating days:

1. Be convinced in your own mind about what will please your Lord, to Whom you live and die.
2. Do not judge your brother/sister with whom you disagree. They are accountable to the Lord, not you.

Applying this to Christmas observance:

I. Be **C**_____! Christmas only has meaning for Christians

Non-Christians can only distort it; they cannot celebrate it

Rom 14:6

Why Dec 25?

Malachi 4:2

Best evidence is that it was between Oct and Dec.

So use the rejection of religious Christmas to preach the Gospel at a time when people most need Good News

Rom 14:5-6 → 9!

II. Be **C**_____! Christmas is not a command, but a choice

Rom 14:5-8

Be free to develop your own meaningful traditions

Get ideas from Focus on the Family

III. Be **C**_____ !

Rom 14:6

This year Christmas is on Sunday. Will worship be packed or sparse?
(services 9:30-10:30 and 11:00-12:00; no mid hr)

How can we have joy when we are not feeding on Christ? The **joy** does
not come from the season, but Him!

Restrict an insane schedule so you can draw *closer* to the Lord, not
need to recover after the holidays!

Schedule in down times for reflection and prayer *now* and treat them
as firm appointments
Remember Luke 2:14!