

HOLIDAY AND HOW WE WORSHIP

How we worship Christ matters deeply -

John 4:23-24 - 23 Yet a time is coming and **HAS NOW COME** when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **SPIRIT** and **TRUTH**, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers **MUST WORSHIP** in spirit and in truth."

Mark 7:6-8 -6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They **WORSHIP ME IN VAIN**; their teachings are but **RULES TAUGHT BY MEN.**' 8 You have **LET GO OF THE COMMANDS OF GOD** and are **holding on to the traditions of men.**"

God gives us freedom concerning "disputable matters" - Rom 14:1-8 - Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on **DISPUTABLE MATTERS**. 2 One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for **God has accepted him**. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One man considers **one day more sacred than another**; another man **considers every day alike**. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who regards one day as special, **does so to the Lord**. He who eats meat, **eats to the Lord**, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, **does so to the Lord** and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. 8 If we live, **we live to the Lord**; and if we die, **we die to the Lord**. So, whether we live or die, **we belong to the Lord**.

Therefore, our disputable celebrations are not subject to judgement - Col 2:13-17- 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having cancelled the written code, **with its regulations**, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. 16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 **THESE ARE A SHADOW OF THE THINGS THAT WERE TO COME; THE REALITY, HOWEVER, IS FOUND IN CHRIST**.

Be warned, when we hold to Old Covenant practices as a path to Salvation, we carelessly decline Grace - Gal 5:2-6 - 2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3 Again **I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that HE IS OBLIGATED TO OBEY THE WHOLE LAW**. 4 **YOU WHO ARE TRYING TO BE JUSTIFIED BY LAW have been alienated from Christ; YOU HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM GRACE**. 5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is **faith EXPRESSING ITSELF through love**.

We are NEVER to worship God with pagan practices - Deut 12:30-32 -30 and after they have been destroyed before you, be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, "**HOW DO THESE NATIONS SERVE THEIR GODS? We will do the same.**" 31 **YOU MUST NOT WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD IN THEIR WAY**, because in worshiping their gods, **they do all kinds of detestable things the LORD hates**. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods. 32 See that you do all I command you; **do not add to it or take away from it**.

When pagan practices become worship, we inadvertently worship demons - 1 Cor 10:18-22 - 18 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? 19 Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but **THE SACRIFICES OF PAGANS ARE OFFERED TO DEMONS, NOT TO GOD**, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 **YOU CANNOT DRINK THE CUP OF THE LORD AND THE CUP OF DEMONS TOO; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons**. 22 **Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy?** Are we stronger than he?

We MUST make sure our freedoms with harmless pagan practices aren't stumbling blocks - 1 Cor 8:9-13 - 9 **Be careful**, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge **eating in an idol's temple**, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, **IS DESTROYED BY YOUR KNOWLEDGE**. 12 **When you sin against your brothers in this way** and wound their weak conscience, **YOU SIN AGAINST CHRIST**. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

Taking everything in to consideration let's not miss opportunities to minister - 1 Cor 9:19-20 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave **TO EVERYONE, TO WIN AS MANY AS POSSIBLE**. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

let's not let our "self-righteousness" get in the way of ministering - Mark 2:15-17 - 15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "**It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

Just keep in mind that everything we do MUST BE FROM FAITH - Rom 14:22-23 - 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. **Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves**. 23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is **not from faith**; and **everything that does not come from faith is sin**.