

“Why is Christmas so Divisive?”

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As I am writing this a few days before Christmas realizing that there are literally scores of lawsuits either pending or being threatened across our country all in the name of freedom *from* religious expression. I have written before in this column that the so called “separation of church and state” has been so misconstrued from its original context that those who promote it are now doing so with the full knowledge of their misuse (see ccc-nl.org for full research paper). In this article I would like to get to the theological issue for why Christmas is so divisive. It seems quite obvious that the birth of a baby over 2000 years ago is not really the issue, nor is it having a nativity scene on public property, nor singing traditional Christmas carols at a public school “winter” concert.

The real issue is what all these point to and that is the very exclusive claims of the New Testament writers and Jesus Christ Himself to absolute Truth. “For there has been born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Jesus’ birth signifies that we are ALL sinners in need of a savior. Some people don’t like to hear this nor that they need someone else to secure salvation for them. Yet Jesus was bold in saying that unless everyone repents of their sin and turns to Him, they will all perish (Luke 13:3, 5; John 14:6). For those willing to hear, it is because of God’s great love that Jesus was born, in order to provide an opportunity for us not to perish, but to have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Let’s not forget that this was all foretold at the first Christmas. “Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘Listen carefully: This child is destined to be the cause of the falling and rising of many...and to be a sign that will be rejected. Indeed, as a result of him the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed— and a sword will pierce your own soul as well’” (Luke 2:34-35 NET). Those that are perpetrating misinformation or lawsuits against the celebration of the Lord’s birth are revealing their hearts just as Simeon foretold. They have rejected Him and are “falling” unless they change their ways. Have a blessed week!

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