



How to Honor Christ at Christmas



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1 Samuel 2:30b—...for those who honor Me I will honor...

The story is told of a christening that was to be held many years ago by a very wealthy European family. Many guests were invited to the home for the occasion and came in the very latest fashionable garb. Their wraps and coats were carried to a bedroom and laid upon the beds. After the usual conversation and commotion, they were ready for the christening ceremony and someone asked, "Where is the baby?" The nurse was sent upstairs to look and returned in alarmed distress. The baby was nowhere to be found! After several minutes' search, someone remembered that the child had last been seen lying on one of the beds, and after a frantic search the little child was found...smothered under the wraps of the guests. The chief reason they had come had been forgotten, neglected, and destroyed!

This Christmas, many will forget, neglect, and even seek to destroy the message of the Christ. It is possible that the real reason for the season can be smothered by the tinsel, wrapping paper, ribbon, and make-believe that surrounds the festive celebrations. Dr. Luke's words seem to have a familiar ring when he said, "*there was no room for them in the inn*" (Luke 2:7). Have you any room for Christ in your heart? To make room for Christ is to honor Him, and if we are to honor Christ at Christmas, there is *something we must know, something we must feel, and something we must do.*

Something we must know

First, honoring Christ at Christmas means knowing what He wants from you.

He wants you to hear His voice.

John 10:27-28—My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, ²⁸ and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

These words were given during the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem (10:22), but John adds a pregnant remark that had a double edge to it—*“it was winter”* (10:23). It was not merely the frostiness of the season that was so striking, but the increasingly frosty reception that Jesus received among His own people.

The world has always been close-minded to the glory of Christ, but those who are known by Him—that is, loved from eternity—will be brought into the open by the sound of His voice. His voice is heard in the Gospel as the message goes forth, and those whom God has chosen will answer His call. Those who are of His flock will follow; they will not only recognize His voice, they will also respond in faith and obedience. His voice is heard when His claim is acknowledged, His promise is trusted, and His call is answered. Have you heard His voice today saying, “Come follow Me”?

Second, honoring Christ at Christmas means caring about what He cared for.

Jesus cared about people in need of the salvation that only He brings. Do you care enough to tell them about your Savior who is freely offered to them and is willing to find a home in every humble heart that will receive Him? (Cf. *John 1:12*)

Jesus cared about truth so that people in darkness might have the light of life. The root of the secret sorrows and hidden heartaches which lie in people’s hearts is grounded in sin. Jesus appeared for this purpose—that he might “*put away sin*” (*Heb.9:26b*). Jesus not only cared about the truth, but He is the truth that leads us to the true and real knowledge of God. Is there not great comfort in this fact?

Third, honoring Christ at Christmas means giving yourself to the things He was committed to.

- Jesus was committed to His Father’s mission—the cross.
- Jesus is committed to His bride—the church.
- Jesus was and is committed to His Father’s glory—the display of God’s love and power in the salvation of His church. (*Heb.12:1-3*)

You can honor Him too by “...[seeking] first His kingdom [His rule] and His righteousness [His standard]...” (*Matt.6:33*). Give yourself first to God, then to the people of God who are called to be instruments of salt and light to the world.

Something we must feel

Jesus was touched by the infirmities and weaknesses of others. Honoring Him at Christmas means being willing to enter into the lives of others and feeling their pain in our hearts and then sharing the hope that is found in Jesus. That's compassion. (*Cf. Matt. 9:13*)

Something we must do

1. Come—the greatest invitation in the Word of God is to come...not to church only, or to a Bible study like this, but to come to Jesus.
2. Seek—the greatest privilege given to sinners is to seek God in Christ, who is the greatest treasure.
3. Receive—the greatest gift in the entire world is the gift of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Have you room in your heart for Him?

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