

# THE *Big 3*

EPISODE: 248

TITLE: Christmas and Consumerism as Christians

There is no evidence that the disciples of Jesus, or the 1st Century church, ever celebrated Christmas or Jesus' birth as an annual holiday. And yet, many of us have been taught that consumerism has killed the true meaning of Christmas.

Here are three key things to believe and consider about Christmas and consumerism as Christians...

1. **Christmas was not originally a Christian holiday that has lost its true meaning. But we get to infuse this holiday with Jesus, his glory, and his beauty!** It's too easy to just "go with the flow" and let the onslaught of advertising and consumerism grab our hearts (and checkbooks) this holiday. Just like with any other event, holiday, or tradition, it is what you intentionally bring to it that shapes and gives it meaning in your life.
2. **We can make Christmas a yearly reminder that God's son came and took on flesh so that he could hang out with us and show us what his Father is like.** We can do the same this Christmas. Giving the gift of time, presence, and service does this better than the latest consumer electronics! Resist the pull to give meaningless gifts that wear out, break or disappear over time. Jesus' name of Emmanuel means, "God with us." Give people the gift of... you!
3. **Creating new, Jesus-focused traditions each year will forever change this holiday in your family for generations.** Sometimes new things are not immediately embraced by everyone. Don't take offense. Take your time... pick one or two of these new ideas and try them out. Keep the ones that everyone enjoys. Next year, add a couple more. Over time you will create beautiful rhythms that truly celebrate and honor our great Lord and Savior, Jesus!

**In light of today's topic, you might also find this helpful:**

[\*Birthright: Living Out of Our Transformed Identity\*](#)

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

***Caesar & Heath***

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