

# 'Tis it the Season ... for Compromise? or Tact?

**Tact** refers to cleverness & skill & sensitivity in dealing with others or with difficult issues.

Tact ... is a scriptural concept:

**1 Cor 9:19-22** For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, **so that I may win more**. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.

**2Cor 12:6** For though I might desire to boast (*14 years ago Paul was taken to the Heaven of God's throne!*), I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

It is a rare gift to discern when to **speak**, and when to be **silent**; and to know when **enough** is said on a subject, neither too **little** nor too **much**.

**Mat 10:16** "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

## STP: Doctrinal Statement on CHRISTMAS

Christmas is neither Christ's birthday nor a celebration Christians should observe. It is not mentioned in the Bible and in no way is an original Christian practice. As any encyclopedia will confirm, Christmas is an ancient pagan celebration, which predated Christianity, but was renamed and given new meaning when it was adopted into the professing Roman Universal (Catholic) Christian Churches.

The Church of God movement recognizes references such as **Jeremiah 10** are specifically about "idol worship" (rather than a Christmas tree tradition), but the curious practices today of yule logs, wreaths, and decorating Christmas trees is foreign to Scripture and more akin to characteristics of ancient sun worship and tree worship via evergreens.

**Deuteronomy 12:30–32; Jeremiah 10:2–5**

## Which of these is a pagan symbol or tradition?



In fact, all of them belong to Winter Solstice celebrations practiced worldwide, thousands of years before Christianity. To this day, on December 22, our sun, Sol rises higher each day promising the birth of new life on Earth. Discover the charm of the true meaning of "Christmas."

**Deu 12:29-32** "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

Deu 12:30 take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'

Deu 12:31 **You shall not worship** the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

Deu 12:32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

**Jer 10:2-5** Thus says the LORD: "**Do not learn the way of the Gentiles**; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

Jer 10:3 For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

Jer 10:4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

Jer 10:5 They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."

Actually son it's a Yule tree.

The Bible forbids  
decorating trees  
from the forest.

Jeremiah 10:1-5



**Compromise** - an agreement or a settlement of a dispute reached by each side making concessions  
- settle a dispute by mutual concession

**Compromise** - can be a scriptural principle...

**Genesis 13:8-12** *Abraham proposed a compromise to Lot... because of the quarrelling herdsmen... suggesting that they separate & choose different areas for their livestock. Abraham gave Lot the first choice of the land, showing a willingness to compromise for the sake of peace.*

**Ephesians 5:21-33** *Discussing ... wives "submitting" & Husbands "loving" their wives, is a beautiful discourse about "coming to agreements"*

**1 Corinthians 8** - *Paul advises a compromise ... if eating meat causes a weaker believer to stumble, it's better to abstain for the sake of love and unity*

**1 Kings 3:16-28** - *Solomon proposes a compromise for the two women claiming the same infant... as a way of determining the true mother*

## However ...

**Compromise** - can **also** mean... to accept standards that are lower than is desirable

This is NOT a scriptural principle ... “**Evil compromise**” is soundly condemned in scripture!

The Bible generally emphasizes the importance of:

- adhering to God's commands,
- maintaining moral integrity, and
- avoiding behaviors that compromise one's faith or ethical standards

Evil compromise ... in the Bible often refers to:

- actions that involve a departure from God's will ... God's standards
- a violation of moral principles, or
- a yielding to ungodly influences.

Evil compromise may include actions such as:

- idolatry,
- disobedience to God's commands,
- engaging in unethical practices, or
- compromising one's faith for the sake of personal gain or acceptance.

**Deuteronomy 4:2** "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

**Proverbs 4:27** "Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil."

**Isa\_58:1** "Cry aloud, **spare not**; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; **Tell My people** their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

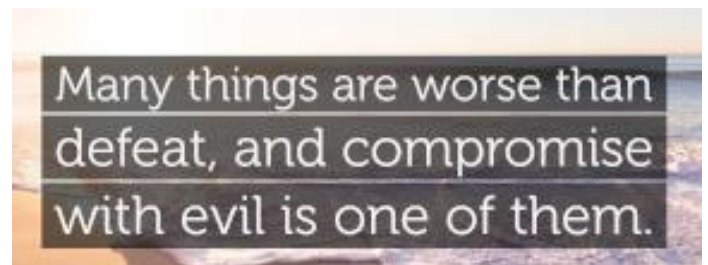
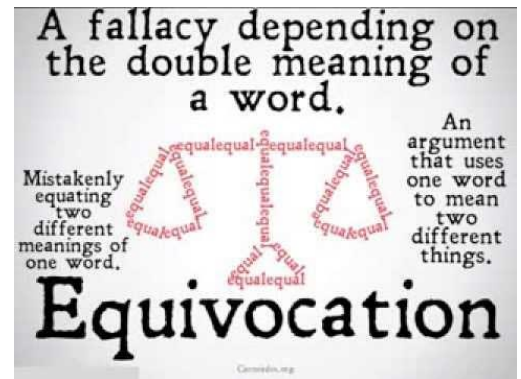
**Proverbs 14:12** "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

**Matthew 5:37** "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

**Galatians 1:8-9** "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."

**Ephesians 5:11** "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

*This verse encourages believers to **avoid** any association with morally compromising actions and to **expose** wrongdoing rather than **compromise** with it.*



**1 Timothy 6:20-21** "O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith..."

**James 4:4** "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."



**2 Corinthians 6:14** "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

**Romans 12:2** "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

**Colossians 2:8** "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

**Revelation 3:15-16** "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

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A Dozen Examples... of how a *balanced Christian* might interact in "the Season"  
With a view to the words today about Tact ... and good & evil compromise!

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1. "Merry Christmas!"

- x - shut your mouth you filthy pagan. You don't know God & I don't do "sun worship"
- Y - Thank you ... I hope your family has a nice holiday
- Y? - Thank you ... But did you know I don't celebrate Christmas?
  - I am like many Christians (Pilgrims/Puritans) who came to North America who reject it because it is not in the Bible ... It's fascinating ... I'll email you a link!

2. "Oh... a Christmas song! Do you like them?"

- x - shut your mouth you filthy pagan. You don't know God & I don't do "sun worship"
- Y - No ... Too many are lies about Santa & greed
- Y? - Actually the **Christian** Church I attend does not keep Christmas ... but we do have the hymns in our hymnal about the birth of Jesus ... because the **truth** about the Creator God becoming *human* & arriving as a *baby* - to *save mankind* - is "**mind blowing!**" (Joy to the World, Joyful Joyful We adore Thee, Silent Night, etc)

### 3. Have you finished your Christmas shopping this year?

- x - You are so deceived & manipulated (you mindless puppet!) by commercialism
- Y - Well ... I've always wondered why people think it is Jesus' birthday ... and we get all the presents!
- Y? - Actually, my church observes the holy days listed in the Bible ... So I avoid this season of overspending

### 4. Christmas-time has so many wonderful memories!

- (Helen Reddy song...) *I am woman hear me ROAR in numbers too big to ignore ...*

**& I know too much to go back & pretend!**

- "**You can't unring a bell,**" means that once something has been said or done, it cannot be undone. This is especially true of unkind words said in haste, or unkind actions. Or in court when the judge asks the jury to "disregard" or forget something presented. It also applies to people who know the truth about Christmas

- (Rockin Around the Christmas Tree - Lyric...) "You will get a **sentimental feeling** when you hear ... voices singing let's be jolly, deck the halls with boughs of holly!"

- Yup ... and Peter says "turning back" is like a dog returning to its vomit!

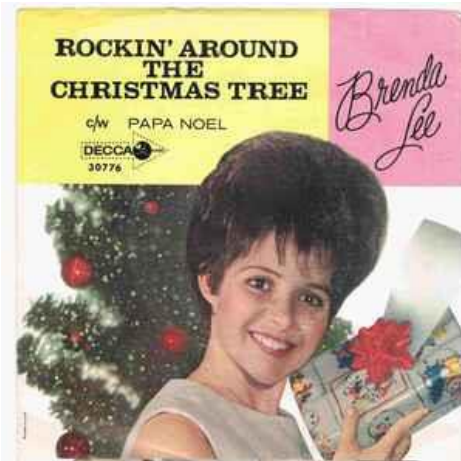
**2Pe 2:20-22** For if, after they have **escaped the pollutions of the world** through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known

it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

- Y - yes ... it is very possible to have sweet memories of Christmas & warm themes of Christmas shows & movies. Satan doesn't deceive the whole world with vinegar ... He does it with sweet things... and evil things ... it is a mixture!

### 5. Sure ... Christmas came from paganism, but most people don't know it - they joyfully see it as a season & a day honouring Christ!

- x - Ya ... keep telling yourself THAT... while you are burning in the fires of hell!
- Y - The problem is that God is crystal clear that we should NEVER adapt pagan traditions to worship Him! (Deu 12:29-32 eg referenced in STP)
- Y - Another problem is that Christmas becomes a replacement or counterfeit for the Days God COMMANDS us to keep! (Lev 23) As Jesus says ... Mat\_15:3 ... "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?)
- Y - It is possible that people **don't know** or **did not know** the true origins of Christmas that began hundreds of years before Jesus was born... Is the purpose to ***please God*** with our worship ? ... or to find reasons (and twisted reasoning) to **justify** symbols that God finds abhorrent because they originate with people breaking the first commandment -- "having other gods"





6. Oh! What a beautiful nativity scene!

- x - Well... When the King of Kings returns, He'll have a **sword** to **destroy** His enemies!
- Y - We are so thankful for the gospel of **Luke** who tells us of the **humble** beginnings of God **becoming** a part of His creation! **It did not happen in December...** But it is an important part of scripture & history, that we need to "**take back**" from those telling a false story!

### **The Birth of Jesus Christ**

Luk 2:1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Luk 2:2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

Luk 2:3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Luk 2:4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

Luk 2:5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

Luk 2:6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

Luk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### **The Shepherds and the Angels**

Luk 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luk 2:9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Luk 2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

Luk 2:11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luk 2:12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Luk 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luk 2:15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

Luk 2:16 And they came with haste & found Mary & Joseph, & the Babe lying in a manger.

Luk 2:17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

Luk 2:18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

- Y - It is interesting to see with the beauty & meaning of Jesus birth, that so many STILL get it wrong, by having the wise men show up at the manger... Their appearance is much later where they came to Jesus in a house (Matt 2:11)
- Y - Another thing interesting about the “wise men from the east” is we don’t know how many there were ... Scripture tells us they brought 3 kinds of gifts to the King (Jesus) ... gold, frankincense, & myrrh (Matt 2:11) ... It is important to not let some people’s traditions or assumptions get in the way of the truth!



7. Poppy ... why don't you buy me Christmas presents?

8. How about a kiss? (stranger under the mistletoe)

9. Peace on Earth & Goodwill toward men!

...Mat\_10:34 **Think not** that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

10. I think we need to put “Christ” back in Christmas!

... Saturnalia was long before Jesus - Because of those origins-Jesus *never was* in Christmas!

11. Poppy ... why don't you keep Christmas?

... God tells me in the Bible to keep His Holy Days ... & Christmas is not one of these days

12. What would Jesus do? (What DID Jesus do?) Being a balanced Christian

- We cannot compromise with Sin!

**1Cor 6:18** **Flee** fornication... (sexual immorality)

... Don't see *how close* you can get to the edge of the cliff!

**1Tim 6:11** But thou, O man of God, **flee these things** (*love of money, hurtful lusts*)

- We may need to burn some bridges!

**Philippians 3:12** I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this; however I do have one compelling focus: I **forget all of the past** as I fasten my heart to the future instead.

Every Day we have opportunities to be a light - to win people to the way of RIGHT!

To NOT bite their heads off! (as some have erred in life and with family members!)

**James 3:17-18** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Jas

3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.



You don't need to believe in **Yule**, the Scandinavian fertility god, to enjoy the tradition of Yuletide carols and greetings.

You don't need to be a

**Wiccan** to enjoy the tradition of wreaths or decking the halls with holly.



You don't need to be a **Druid** to enjoy the tradition of hoping for a kiss under the mistletoe.

You don't need to believe in the god

**Saturn** to enjoy the tradition of decorating a Saturnalia tree in your home.



You don't need to believe in **Thor, Odin, or St. Nicholas** to enjoy the tradition of a visitor bringing gifts at night.

You don't need to believe in

**Sleipnir**, Odin's flying 8-legged horse, to enjoy the tradition of listening for the sound of hooves on your roof top.



You don't need to believe in

**Mithras** to enjoy the tradition of celebrating the sun's rebirth on December 25th.



And you don't need to believe in

**Jesus Christ** to enjoy the tradition of renaming this ancient holiday to Christ's Mass.



All you need to enjoy these winter festivities is to be merry.

**Merry Christmas**