



Christmas and the Muslims

We are in the 'festive season' according to Christians – Christmas time. And many Muslims around the world will be actually taking part in these festivities. They will do this without really questioning what they are doing, without even asking themselves if, as Muslims, they should be partaking in this. The fact is that Muslims should not be taking part in Christmas or other festivals that are not based in Islam, that do not uphold the principles that we have been taught by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). But many Muslims do.

WHY WE SHUN XMAS?

We Muslims do not celebrate Christmas because it has no theological basis nor approval from Qur'an and Sunnah.

We are not alone in this; these are some of the views of few mainstream Christian churches.

5 churches that don't celebrate Christmas and why

Jehovah's Witness

This religious organisation is one of the biggest group of Christmas shunners. Once upon a time, Jehovah's Witnesses used to observe Christmas. This was until 1928, after further study by one official. The official found that this is based on "false religious beliefs or activities." Deseret News reports that this is explained in a 1993 book, "Jehovah's Witnesses — Proclaimers of God's Kingdom."

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Like Jehovah's Witnesses, this church is also against Christmas. A publication from them reads: "We do not celebrate Christmas as the Birth of Christ per say since Christ was not born in Dec. "He did not want us to celebrate His birth or He would have told us when He was born. It has become a money-making celebration with Christ mixed in. It is a pagan ritual.

Deeper Life

A few years ago, Pastor W.F. Kumuyi, the head of the Church announced to the world that his church does not celebrate the popular holiday.

Explaining at the 2013 December retreat, he said: “We don’t celebrate Christmas nor sing Christmas carol; because Christmas is of idolatrous background.”

God’s Kingdom Society (GKS)

GKS believe that there is no single evidence in the Bible that Jesus Christ was born on the 25th of December. Rather, they believe that He was born in October and that Christmas originated from “a noisy pagan festival in honour of the god of the sun”.

The church was started by St. Gideon Meriodere Urhobo in 1934 after leaving Jehovah’s Witnesses with headquarters found in Warri.

Religious Society of Friends aka Quakers.

This church believes that “every day is a holy day,” so there is no need to single out just one day to celebrate.

Mountain of Fire Ministries (MFM)

According to the founder, Pastor D.K. Olukoya, “We don’t celebrate Christmas because the root is demonic.”

A Word on Muslims Taking Part in Festivities

Some Islamophobes are forever comparing Muslims to individuals from other faiths when it comes to taking part in festivities. They complain that we Muslims do not take part, or not as much so as those of other faiths.

Let me make something clear: we as Muslims take great pride in our religion. We think of it to be the ultimate truth. Our religion teaches us that the festivities of other faiths are based on falsehood. Take for example Christmas. Any decent Christian will tell you that Jesus a.s wasn’t born on the 25th of December. Moreover, taking part in a festival that is a hallmark of another faith is showing disloyalty to one’s own.

Yes, we live in a country and amongst people who follow and adhere to different faiths. We are to live with them with kindness and compassion, as the Qur’ān advises:

‘Allāh does not forbid you as regards those who did not fight you on account of faith, and did not expel you from your homes, that you do good to them, and deal justly with them. Surely Allāh loves those who maintain justice.’ (60:8)

This does not mean we integrate to an extent that our religious beliefs are compromised, or that we act contrary to the dictates of our religion. We are free to practice our religion, and if that means we do not take part in the festivities of others, then so be it.

Respect & Tolerance

We must respect other people for what they believe. We do not celebrate Christmas and other non-Muslim festivals; however we must not laugh, belittle or make fun of those who celebrate these festivals. Rather, we must make an effort to understand their beliefs and at the same time reflect upon our own beliefs. Islam teaches us to live in peace, respecting each other's differences

Our Responsibilities as Parents

1. We should first understand and know what our beliefs are regarding Eesa a.s Maryam a.s and the reality of Christmas.
2. We must respect all other faiths, beliefs, cultures and religions.
3. At the same time we will firmly hold on to the teaching of our beloved prophet Mohammed, and the Quran.
4. If we want to acknowledge a non-Muslim neighbour who is celebrating Christmas, and who may have given you a card and / or a present, we must do this with the correct intention.
5. Our intention must be to "observe our neighbour's rights" (something emphasised a lot in Islam). With this intention we can at any time of the year give presents, send food and even give a card. Our card can highlight our beliefs about Eesa a.s We can give this to our school teachers and friends as well.

Celebrating Christmas

Without going into too many details, note:

- a) It is not permissible to celebrate any aspect of Christmas.
- b) It is Haraam to celebrate any aspect of Christmas.
- c) You may think this is extreme. Actually, it isn't. Christmas is a Pagan festival which has been connected with the Christian concept of Prophet Eesa (A.S.). In Christianity, Jesus is God and this is plain Shirk.
- d) Committing Shirk is a MAJOR sin. Allah says in the Quran that he can forgive all other sins except Shirk.
- e) Shirk is to make partners with Allah. Allah is one, he is eternal, he is absolute.
- f) When we try to copy and celebrate other festivals, our Iman (faith) becomes weaker, we lose respect for the Quran and Sunnah, and we slowly become a Muslim who tries to be "an all-rounder". Sometimes, if a person goes too far, they lose their Iman as well.
- g) We must always explain to our friends, neighbours and teachers what our beliefs are. **This must be done respectfully.**

MADRASAH NOTICES FOR PARENTS

- Madrasah will be closed for **1 week** starting from Monday 24th December till Friday 28th December 2018. Madrasah will be reopen as usual from **Monday 31st December 2018**.
- Please ensure children are not dropped off to Madrasah before 4:50pm and are picked up on time.

December Student of the Month	
Class 1	Abdullah Sidat
Class 2	M.Ebrahim Laher
Class 3	Hamza Salu
Class 4	Hasan Sidat
Class 5B	Uzair Mulla
Class 5G	Samina Mahmood
Class 6A	Muhammad Ali Islam
Class 6B	Raahil Mulla
Class 7	Faaizah Mohamed
Class 8	Unais Laher
Class A1	Sufyan Raje
Hifz	Talha Diwan

Total Madrasah Attendance	NOVEMBER	96.2%
Best Attendance	CLASS 4	100%

Quote of the Month

You will never be able to please all the people all the time, so concentrate on pleasing your maker because that's what really matters

(Mufti Ismail Menk)