

QUESTIONING CHRISTMAS: HOW SHOULD WE CELEBRATE?

LUKE 1:46-55, 1:67-75, 2:22-32 (ESV)

How should biblically-minded, Reformed Christians celebrate Christmas?

I. Because Scripture neither commands nor forbids annual celebration of Jesus' birth, how a Christian celebrates is a matter of _____ and _____.

A. God's Word gives _____ and _____
(wisdom) that should be applied to the decisions we make.

B. Ultimately, Christians should make these decisions with a clear
_____ before the Lord out of _____ for Him
and neighbor.

II. What's more essential than our holiday traditions is our heart toward Jesus.

A. The big question in Luke's Christmas story is how people
would personally _____ to the _____ of Jesus'
birth.

B. Even though some people initially responded to the Christmas
message with unbelief, God brought them to a _____
that gave birth to _____.

III. The best way to celebrate Christmas is to...

A. Recognize the bold _____ of the Christmas message:

1. Jesus ushered in God's love and _____ for people who don't _____ it.
2. This gift of love is offered not only to Jews, but to the _____.
3. Jesus will restore the _____ and _____ of all Creation.

B. Be honest about our personal need for these promises.

1. All of us are _____ in the sin and brokenness of the world.
2. Yet, God made us to _____ Him and _____ Him in a way that gives our life purpose, direction, and everlasting joy.
3. There's nothing that you can do _____ to reconcile these two truths; but _____ has done it all.

C. Believe that these promises about Jesus were given by God for _____, specifically and personally.

D. When you entrust yourself to Jesus, the natural response is two-fold: _____ and _____.