

# Keep Christ in Christian

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Maybe you aren't old enough to remember a movement in the late 60s or early 70s (which I fully supported as a non-believer) to take "Christ" out of the word Christmas. The idea was to simply label remembering the birth of Jesus on the calendar with "Xmas". I remember thinking at the time that we must have really gotten under the skin of the "Bible thumpers" because there were rumblings all over the place to "put the Christ back in Christmas!"

And as a result, all of a sudden, a new and far more easily accepted phrase popped up. It politely takes the Christ out of Christmas by simply wishing people Happy Holidays. A movement that hit a brick wall just years before was easily adopted because it was suddenly politically correct blaming it on "so as not to offend anyone".

Now as a passionate Christ Follower, I am greatly offended hearing that haunting, yet very popular phrase. What makes it worse is hearing believers say Happy Holidays, too. So, this year, I think it is more important than ever to "keep the Christ in Christmas." Let's shift the focus from the parties, presents and commercialism to what the Christmas season is all about—the birth of Christ who is the only hope of this world.

Here's another phrase that's been on my mind that I feel is just as important. Let's keep the Christ in Christian.

I will never forget, but a few months ago we completed a nationwide survey after the recent race riots. We found that true Christians (people like you and me that tell us they are only saved by grace through faith in Christ) were all for doing what it takes for their churches to be integrated.

At the same time another better known Christian research organization did the same type of survey and found the exact opposite. In fact, their findings made Christians look very bad and very hate filled. This very clever research organization knows what sells, and very cleverly never defined what a true Christian is.

Now I know that might sound kind of harsh, but honestly, it's not just our stuff. It doesn't take long in searching the news or social networking communities to find examples of men and women who call themselves Christians, but don't display any kind of Christlikeness in their actions at all. And that's so tragic.

There's a place in the Gospel of John, during the Last Supper, where Philip tells Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us" (John 14:8). I think that perfectly describes the attitude of many in our culture. "Just show us God," they say, "but we don't have to be like him."

But if we don't appreciate Jesus' person, and we don't appreciate Jesus' words, and we don't appreciate the works of God done through Jesus, and we don't share the love like Jesus had for mankind, we can say we're a Christian all we want, but does simply saying it make it true?

Jesus is essential for our salvation. Who He is, and what He has done for us provides the pathway to a relationship with God. He is the reason we are called Christians--followers of Christ.

This year let's keep the Christ in Christian. Let's not be content with having obtained salvation. Let's live like Jesus did. Let's take that message of love and forgiveness to a world that needs to hear it. And let's model those principles in our own lives. This year let's keep Christ in Christian.