

Topical Issues

1. Santa the Imposter

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Parents/adults - how long before you stop lying to children about the mythical Santa Claus?

“...whoever causes one of these little ones (children) who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” Matt.18:6

As Christians (and we're especially talking to Christian parents), how might having your child or children believe in Santa Claus and his flying reindeer **damage their future view of God?** Have you thought about how teaching your children to believe in a seemingly all-knowing, very powerful, loving, giving, but soon-to-be-discovered **imaginary person** is going to shape their view of God? There may be unintended consequences that can arise from teaching children to believe in an imaginary man who wears a fluffy red and white bathrobe, has flying reindeer and a sleigh, lives in the North Pole, and delivers billions of presents to children all over the world in one night, as harmless as it may sound.

People go out of their way to effectively deceive their kids into believing that Santa is real by secretly wrapping presents, eating loads of cookies and milk, writing fake and elaborately decorated letters for/from Santa. **Truthfully, this may be a hindrance to your child's view of God when they grow up**, and here's why...

Children are told that they cannot see Santa (except at his special mall appearance, of course), so they naturally rely on the testimony of adults for their belief, after all, **they're supposed to trust adults, especially their parents.** For all they know, Santa *is* a real person, they just can't prove it. As if that weren't enough, children are also told that Santa possesses some powerful attributes that they can't see.

For example, he is said to be all-knowing ("he sees you when you're sleeping; he knows when you're awake"); and he has great powers (he can fly with his reindeer, squeeze through chimneys and deliver billions of presents in one night). To kids, this Santa guy sounds pretty spectacular! In fact, he kind of sounds like God in a twisted sort of way. Do you see the problem here?



As children grow up, they eventually realize that Santa Claus is not a real person. They learn that their parents, friends, teachers, and members of society **have fabricated an elaborate scheme to deceive them** about jolly old Saint Nick. Their whole world falls apart. Well, perhaps we're exaggerating, but it *is* a rather sad day for many children when they come to this realization, that **my Christian Parents have been LYING to me all these years.** Some *do* become angry and resentful for a time, depending on their personality, even though they know their parents meant no harm.

But children may have a hard time believing anything their parents say about anyone or anything in the future... including the Creator God, the Bible, and Jesus, since they can't see Him either. Don't let Santa entice you into evil this Christmas season. Stand for the truth. Ask Jesus to help you get through this season by focusing your family on Him. (Text based on www.truthinformed.com/the-christian-and-santa-claus/)



What's the problem?



Believers and churches celebrating the worldly Christmas and Santa, is like Israel saying they are following God, but also celebrating the festivals of false gods and having pagan idols in their home, provoking the Almighty God to anger, as He is a jealous God of His people.

