

HAPPY HOLIDAYS v MERRY CHRISTMAS
Christmas Message #1 – 12/9/07

Introduction -

It seems like almost everyday I'm getting another email telling me of another retailer that is putting out a catalog, flyer or advertisement replacing any mention of "Merry Christmas" with "Happy Holidays". Seems like no one will be satisfied until Christ is eliminated from the public arena altogether.

However, before we cast too many stones, is it possible that the church of Jesus Christ has also effectively removed Christ and the Holy Spirit from many of our churches? This morning we will share with you 3 areas where we may be doing just that...

2 Cor 12:9b (NLT) – "MY POWER - WORKS BEST - IN YOUR WEAKNESS."

1 Cor 1:26-29 – "*Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose **the foolish** things of the world to shame the wise; God chose **the weak things** of the world to shame the strong. He chose **the lowly things** of this world and the despised things – and the **things that are not** – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him."*

***THREE AREAS WHERE CHRIST COULD BE REMOVED...**

1. _____ vs _____

Luke 4:18-19 – "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has **anointed me** to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*"

1 John 2:27a – "*As for you, the **anointing you received from Him** remains in you...*"

Ez. 44:18 – "*They (the priest) are to wear linen turbans on their heads and linen undergarments around their waist. They must not wear anything that makes them **perspire.***"

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2. _____ vs _____

1 Cor 1:26 – "*Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. **Not many of you wise** by human standards.*"

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Rom 12:2 – "*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's perfect will is...*"

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1 John 2:27b – "*...His **anointing teaches you** about all things.*"

*1 Cor 12:8 – “To one there is given through the Spirit the message of **wisdom**, to another the message of **knowledge**...”*

3. _____ vs _____

*James 5:16c – “The **prayer** of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”*

*Eph 3:20-21a – “Now to Him who is able to do **immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory...”*

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*James 4:2c – “You do not have, because you **do not ask God**.”*

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*1 John 5:14-15 – “This is the confidence we have in approaching god: that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him.”*