



Frequently Asked Questions About God's Calendar

Question

Why does New Life Christian Community tell the gospel of Jesus Christ using the biblical calendar God gave in Leviticus 23 rather than the dates of Easter and Christmas?

Response

- Love - God loves the world and we respond to God's love by loving him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and finding out what pleases him. Our love and obedience are responses to God's grace.
- Jesus - Jesus and his apostles followed the Levitical calendar, therefore we know that there is no contradiction between authentic Christianity and celebrating Jesus using biblical dates. We are Jesus' disciples learning to obey everything he commanded.
- Bible - The Bible is our highest authority and governs our practices.
- Story – God's calendar in Leviticus 23 gives a framework from which to tell the Gospel story that was always unfolding in the history of Israel.

Question

Have you always followed God's Leviticus 23 calendar?

Response

- No.
- For many years we gave little effort to understand Leviticus so we did not realize God had given an annual calendar to His people to memorialise His eternal plan of salvation.
- In 2008 while researching for an Easter message on the resurrection of Jesus Christ we found multiple sources describing how Jesus' death, burial and resurrection matched the exact days of the first 3 annual memorials given in Leviticus 23. We thought Jesus' fulfilment of these memorials was exciting and significant information.
- Further investigation confirmed that the 4th annual memorial in the sequence, Pentecost, was also fulfilled on the exact day with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.
- We also 'discovered' the calendar God had established was changed by men at the Council of Nicea in 325AD and we wondered if people have the authority to change God's commands.
- In 2010, after almost 2 years of investigation we decided to repent (change) and realign our calendar with the one God set to celebrate and tell the Gospel story of what Jesus has done and will do when he returns.

Question

So now you are using the biblical calendar to remember Jesus' birth, death and resurrection?

Response

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- Yes.
- We celebrate the birth of Jesus during the feast season of 'Sukkot', sometimes called 'Tabernacles' or 'Booths'.
 - Sukkot speaks of God being on earth with people. We believe there is substantive evidence that Jesus' birth occurred during this season when *'the word became flesh and dwelt among us'* (John 1:14).
 - Sukkot is generally in September and October.
- We remember the death and resurrection of Jesus during the Passover season; Passover is also known as 'Pesach'.
 - The Passover season includes the day of Passover, the feast of Unleavened Bread and First-Fruits. The timing of these three celebrations corresponds exactly with the actual death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - Passover is generally in March or April and often just prior to the Easter weekend. It is a seven day season.
- We also celebrate the outpouring of God's Spirit at Pentecost, also called 'Shavu'ot' or 'Weeks', 50 days after Passover as in Leviticus 23.

Question

Why were you willing to do something that puts you out of step with a huge part of the church?

Response

- Our love for God and the authority of God's Word, the Bible.
- We believe our obligation was and always will be to obey God's Word over everything else including our church traditions. The upholding of the authority of the Bible over the traditions of the Church has been a continuing process in the history of the Christian Church and is well documented. A clear example of this is the Reformation of 1517.

Question

Christmas and Easter are major events for much of the Christian church and public holidays for the general population. How do you function with these realities and remain true to your convictions?

Response

- We seek to walk in humility and keep our focus on loving and knowing Jesus Christ.
- We recognise that the global Christian Church uses a number of different dates to observe the first advent of Jesus Christ which includes his birth, crucifixion and resurrection. We believe each church should use the dates they are convinced of.
- We hold significant events at Passover and Sukkot to celebrate Jesus' first and second advents.
- We enjoy the Christmas and Easter public holidays, gather with family and friends and ask the Holy Spirit for opportunities to share 'God's Story'.
- We have made some mistakes in our enthusiasm to share what we have learnt and our miscommunication has at times caused relational conflict which we have sought to resolve in a manner that glorifies God.

Question

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What do you mean by the phrase 'God's Story'?

Response

- 'God's Story' is a term we use to describe the unfolding plans of God - past, present and future - as He brings to completion His great work of redemption and restoration in the earth. 'God's story' is revealed throughout His Word from Genesis to Revelation. New Life desires to be a people who know this Story and are able to raise future generations who are firmly grounded in the depth and width of this eternal plan. God's Story is established through and upheld by His covenants. It is consistently revealed through the writings of Israel's prophets, displayed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the faithful Israelite, and expanded through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is the very wisdom of God to save and restore the whole earth by bringing all things in heaven and earth under the governance of His Son. We believe Jesus Christ will return to the earth on a future appointed day and rule the earth with justice and righteousness from the city of Jerusalem. At a further appointed time, God Himself will return to the earth to renew it and dwell with people forever.
- We believe that the biblical gospel or 'God's Story' is inseparable from the story of Israel and is fulfilled in the life, love and obedience of Jesus of Nazareth, Israel's Messiah and the world's true King.

Question

What do you teach your children?

Response

- Children are being taught to celebrate all that God has already accomplished through Jesus Christ and are learning what will happen when Jesus returns as King.
- Children are being taught that Spirit-empowered obedience to God's word leads to the enjoyment of God's blessing now and eternally.
- Children are being taught to love like Jesus, value truth and respect differences.

Question

How do you help Fremantle Christian College staff and families who are not part of New Life Christian Community to understand God's calendar?

Response

- Through the College Principal we offer training and resources to equip staff to teach the biblical truth of Jesus' first and second advents and the Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit according to God's calendar.
- Resources and information are available for any person who wants to understand God's calendar and its fulfilment in the work of Jesus Christ.

Question

Fremantle Christian College has staff members and children from other churches. What happens in the College at Easter and Christmas?

Response

- Truth is essential in good education. The Principal has the responsibility to ensure God's calendar is integrated into College life and the truth about the origins of Christmas and Easter are taught.

Frequently Asked Questions About God's Calendar

- The Principal has the responsibility to lead the staff to decide which Christ-centred activities are appropriate within the College at the dates of Easter and Christmas.
- All staff members and children are free to make personal choices regarding their own activities during the Easter and Christmas dates.

Question

How has following God's calendar made a difference?

Response

- It has helped us see more clearly the complete Genesis-Revelation storyline and the unity of the Bible.
- It has opened up conversations with unbelievers, including some Jews.
- It has liberated us from much of the pressure and anxiety people experience at Christmas and Easter driven by consumerism.
- Our hearts have been challenged and sifted through this journey. We have experienced our lack of love for God and people and our unwillingness to be holy as God is holy.

Question

Do you think you are superior to churches that prefer the Christmas and Easter dates?

Response

- No. No. No.
- We seek to walk in humility and the unity of the Spirit with the Body of Christ.
- We rejoice whenever God's truth about Jesus Christ is being made known.
- We are part of Christ's body and will be faithful to what God has given us to be and do and we need the rest of the Body of Christ.
- Please read our document 'Circle of Essentials' on our [website](#).

Question

What about New Testament passages like Galatians 4:8-12?

Response

- We provide an explanation of Galatians 4:8-12 on our website in a teaching called "A Tale of Two Calendars" on the [Podcasts and Notes](#) page.
- In Paul's letter to the Galatians he is rebuking people for trusting in something other than the finished work of Jesus Christ to enter the grace of God.
- We are following God's calendar to tell God's Story NOT to earn God's favour just as other churches do not observe the dates of Easter and Christmas to earn God's favour.

Question

Do some Christians misunderstand you?

Response

- Yes.
- This list of FAQs is an introduction to help those who want to understand.

For further resources on this and other subjects please visit www.newlifefree.com