



# THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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gcbo.com.ng



## SPECIAL FAMILY SUNDAY Christian home and celebration

**Pastor A.S.O Olaleye**

**4th December, 2023**

What do Christians celebrate?

There are several Christian festivals that provide time for Christians to reflect and celebrate their faith.

THE MAJOR FESTIVALS OF CHRISTIANITY:

**ADVENT SEASON** [mid-Nov/Dec] The Christian year begins with a period of preparation for Christmas. It is time also for looking towards Jesus' second coming (Parousia). It is a season of expectation.

**CHRISTMAS** [25 Dec - Jan 6] Celebration of Jesus' birth (Nativity); this festival emphasizes the **INCARNATION** ["the Word/Logos was made flesh and lived amongst us."] The festival lasts twelve days and ends with the **EPIPHANY** (A manifestation or appearance of a divine or superhuman being.) [Jan. 6], the manifestation of God in Jesus, which celebrates Jesus' baptism, the visit of the Magi [symbolic of Gentiles] to the infant Jesus, and Jesus' first miracle when he turned water into wine at a wedding feast in Cana.

\***LENT** [March-April] Forty-day preparation for Easter. It corresponds to the 40 days Jesus spent fasting before beginning his ministry. This penitential season ends with:

**HOLY WEEK** begins with **PALM SUNDAY**, commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. **HOLY THURSDAY** commemorates the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist in Catholic, Orthodox and some Protestant churches. **GOOD FRIDAY** is the solemn memorial of Jesus' death by crucifixion.

\***EASTER SUNDAY** [April] The greatest of Christian festivals celebrates the Resurrection. [Every Sunday is also a commemoration of the Resurrection.]

\***ASCENSION THURSDAY** [May] Forty days after Easter, this festival celebrates Jesus' ascension to heaven.



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\*PENTECOST SUNDAY [WHITSUN] [May/June] Ten days after the Ascension [50 after Easter], this festival celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and other disciples. It marks the birth of the Church.

\* NB: The dates of Easter and, therefore, of Lent, Holy Week, Ascension and Pentecost vary each year. Easter's date is determined by the Passover Full Moon, its extreme limits being 21 March and 25 April.

God instructs His people to celebrate Him.

Exodus 23:14

"Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me.

Psalm 34:3

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

If you think and know that God has done you good you can celebrate and give thanks to God.

Psalm 126:3

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

Should a christian partake in sallah celebration?

The belief of some is that the ram is offered to idol because there is a prayer they do on it before killing the ram.

But the truth of the matter is that is that the meat we buy in the market is also killed after pray the same prayer on it because most but hers are muslims.

1 Corinthians 8 give answer to the above question.

Should a Christian celebrate New Yam Festival?

The cleric likened the New Yam festival to the church tradition of annual harvest and thanksgiving service where Christians come in thanksgiving to God for successful end of the farming season and for bountiful blessing from God

What is the implication of New Yam Festival?

The New Yam Festival, in some communities, is an important way of marking the beginning and end of the farming season. It is a celebration of life, accomplishments in the community, culture and well-being that does not involve any form of Idol wroship.

Ultimately let the Holy Spirit lead you in all celebration you you attend.



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What does the Bible say about religious festivals?

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies. There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly.

Some Christians say there is nothing wrong with having meals with Muslims during Ramadan.

Other Christians claim that Christians should not participate in other religions festival at all. Basic to the issue is whether or not it is possible for a Christian to participate in a non-Christian holiday or festival without endorsing the beliefs behind it.

We first need to distinguish between participating in a cultural festival and a religious festival.

Some festivals are simply expressions of a particular culture and a celebration of that culture's people, history, and contributions to society at large.

There is nothing inherently wrong with that.

A Christian can celebrate with fellow Muslims without embracing the belief.

Learning about and enjoying a different culture is morally neutral.

On the other hand, participating in a religious festival is fraught with spiritual danger. Honoring a false god is always a sin. "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21).

If any part of a celebration involves actions that honor or pay tribute to a false god, then Christians should not participate. There is no room for compromise in this area. Paul asks a rhetorical question: "Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? . . . The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons" (1 Corinthians 10:18, 20). Partaking in non-Christian religious festivals cannot be justified. We "cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons" (verse 21)

Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you when it comes to any celebration.

May God help us.