##  Star Light-Star Bright

I remember as a child repeating this children's rhyme, “**Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight, wish I may, wish I might, have the first wish I wish tonight**.” Those were very innocent times whenever I believed in make believe characters, such as the tooth fairy, Santa, and the Easter bunny. All of us know, these are only make believe but nevertheless, I can still recall good times remembering some of these. Is it wrong to teach our children these and still believe in Christian principles?

Many Christians have struggled with this because of their upbringing. The church typically opposes such behavior because it teaches our children lies about fictional characters and may water down the real meaning of Christmas and Easter. Parents often get confused or have mixed emotions because of their upbringing by Christian parents, yet as adults, they turned out serving the Lord. Some churches will allow Christmas trees inside the church and offer Easter egg hunts but many can trace these back to pagan times. Does it seem contradictory?

Most people will agree that if one has a Christmas tree in their home or church, it doesn't mean that they are celebrating a druid celebration, nor does searching eggs at Easter constitute a belief in the Easter bunny. One must first consider what is the best interest in our children and with our Christian belief.

When we become a Christian, the Bible tells us to not be conformed to this world, which also includes their beliefs and customs. Christians have a higher set of standards than the world, which includes honesty and truth. Christian parents should instruct their children to the “real” meanings of Christmas and Easter. The Bible says, “Train up a child in the way he should go”, Proverbs 22:6. This does not mean one cannot have fun at Christmas, Easter or give money whenever a tooth is placed under the pillow? Of course not! Should over zealous Christians condemn others for trees and participating in other activities? Of course not!

The church and our belief in Christ is a central point to every Christian. One should balance these out and teach our children the true meanings of Christmas and Easter. Ask God for direction of how to approach your children because they will come home with the world's traditions and ask why there is a difference. A Christian life also has traditions of understanding the true meanings of these holidays. Just because the world adds something to the Christian traditional celebration, does not mean that Christians have to celebrate the same as the world. It appears the world is really celebrating along with the Christian believers on these Christian holidays.

\*\*This article was written from a request of a Christian who could not find any information regarding how to approach these events with their children from their denomination.