

We have strange traditions

Willson Home - My family it includes Rossi's pizza, chicken wings, my uncle Donnie, the wizard of oz and the bad guy!

Osterhout Home - My wife's includes the Osterhout men performing pranks. It is a must of being an Osterhout man

Wassailing – drink, ale curdled cream, roasted apples, eggs cloves, ginger, nutmeg, and sugar

Toast that is an anglo-saxon phrase that means good heath. Drank from a special bowl made of silver

Apparently a girl came to the prince and offered a toast of this mixture and proclaimed Wassail

Christmas – A holiday centered on the birth of Christ. I am a dispensationalist!

I believe we live in the age of the church and things are different at different times

IMPORT To remember Christ

Jesus is the center of Christianity if you deny the deity of Christ you are not a Christian and we do not fellowship with you.

Too Harsh listen to the words of Jude – Jude verses 3-5

God is a God who gives gifts look at the parables

The Sower	Matt 13:3-4&11-12	The Word of God the Gospel
-----------	-------------------	----------------------------

The Mustard Seed	Matt 13:31-32	Kingdom of Heaven
------------------	---------------	-------------------

* What is the Kingdom of heaven?	Romans 14:17	
----------------------------------	--------------	--

Kingdom of Heaven is not a realm, it is the rule and reign of Christ. It for the believer is a reality now, but only a taste of things to come. It will completed on earth in the second coming of Christ (not the rapture).

The unforgiving servant	Matt 19:21-35	Forgiveness
-------------------------	---------------	-------------

The Vine Dresser	Matt 21:33-46	A Leased Vineyard
------------------	---------------	-------------------

The wedding feast	Matt 22:1-14	Invitation to the wedding Feast
-------------------	--------------	---------------------------------

The Talents	Matt 25:14-30	Talents investment in this world
-------------	---------------	----------------------------------

The sheep and the goats	Matt 25:31-46	Sheep Inherit the kingdom
-------------------------	---------------	---------------------------

Why do we give gifts?

Well to be honest – **the church adapted policies of the people they converted. But the idea is that it is to remind us of the three gifts that the wisemen gave to Jesus Christ to worship Him**

According to James Cooper

Frankincense – This was a perfume used to show that people would worship Jesus.

Gold – This precious gift pointed to Christ deity

Myrrh – This was a perfume used to put on dead bodies. Foretelling Christ death burial and resurrection

All over the world the Christmas gift giver is changed

Like Santa Clause

Germany – it is the Christ king

Spain – Wisemen themselves

Italy – Old Lady called Befana

Given in different places

Europe they are left in shoes

Which lead us to stockings

12 days of Christmas according to Greg Laurie – The cost of these gifts is about \$15,000. **I don't know how you calculate the cost of 12 Lord a leapin**

God the Father gave us this precious gift

Psychology today – not a surprise Husband and Wife getting a gift they didn't expect

1 Expectant Gift – **Promised or something that you wait for** Galatians 4:4-7 Timing was everything

2 Needed Gift - **12 more teddy bears** Matthew 6:31-34 It is what the world really needs

2 Useful Gift – **one that will be put to the use** Acts 4:12 Necessary for Salvation

3 Wanted Gift – **not diapers** Psalm 73:25 & Isaiah 26:9 I desire nothing else

4 Asked for Gift – **meets an intimate desire** John 4:10 You would have asked of Him

5 A Gift from a loved one I John 15:11-15 Galatians 2:20 Greatest Gift

6 A Gift that cost something Matthew 20:28 Jesus came to serve and to give His life

Ultimately – Jesus Christ is the ultimate gift