

# TOO BUSY TO ENJOY HOLIDAYS

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I can't believe that even before Halloween, paraphernalia for Thanksgiving and Christmas are blazoned all over the stores. Come on! Really! Give us a break! Can you remember the time when storeowners used to get clear of one celebration before putting out the stocks for the next? Leave us alone and let us get oriented rather than confused.

We all have experienced how these next two months can get so crowded out by the holiday rush. Sometimes we allow ourselves to get too busy and can't enjoy the celebration because we are running around like headless chickens trying to get everything done. There are presents to buy for family and friends. Food for the sumptuous meals we will inevitably make. We're working out how we are going to entertain the kids during the holidays or we're planning a short vacation while they are off school. Then there's cleaning the house before we get invaded by visitors during the holiday period. On and on it goes.

Many of us enjoy being hospitable and love having family around. Still more people enjoy having others do it for us. We may be relieved it's not our turn for hospitality on the family rotation schedule. Whatever position we are in this year it is so easy to crowd out the real meaning of the next three celebrations.

Not agreeing with the tenets of Halloween I prefer to see us celebrate a Fall Festival where we are grateful to God for His provision. Mixing goblins, witches, ghosts, corpses, bats and demonic iterations with the truth does not synchronize with my Christian worldview. I would rather go to a church Fall Festival and enjoy dressing up and celebrating harvest and family.

The next celebration is Thanksgiving. It has the true meaning within its title. It's a time to be grateful for all our blessings and the religious freedoms we so enjoy in this country. How easy it is to forget this! Our first Thanksgiving celebration in America was at a friend's place with their family members. We were bewildered when they left as soon as they had eaten! No time was spent in sharing things they were grateful for over the last year. Not a word. I would suggest that every family make this a practice even for the youngest speaking child. We have so much to be thankful for! Even if we have lost a lot this year due to job losses and other effects of the economic recession we are still so much better off than people in many other countries.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, who gets crowded out by all the glitz, busyness and food. Commercialism is so rampant that it distracts us from the celebration's true meaning. I decided that I was never going to fall in with the super-liberal politically correct movement and say, "Happy holidays." I'm calling it Christmas, the birth of Christ.

This year try to help your children understand the true meaning of our major celebrations by educating them about their history. Don't allow yourself to get sucked in to the 'too busy league'. May I suggest you try simplifying your life and lower your financial output. Save the money you will need and only spend what cash you have put aside. Avoid credit cards that take months or years to pay off. Your example in these matters will provide simple joy and it will give more time for you and your children to appreciate such cultural and spiritual events. Your action might change generations to come in your family line.

If you have any comments or questions on this subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at [sally@forefrontfamilies.org](mailto:sally@forefrontfamilies.org). We invite you to also check out our website at [www.forefrontfamilies.org](http://www.forefrontfamilies.org) and our blog site at [www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com](http://www.forefrontfamilies.blogspot.com) for further assistance.