

rick warren purpose of christmas

Rick Warren Purpose of Christmas: Understanding the Deeper Meaning of the Holiday Season

rick warren purpose of christmas sheds light on the true significance of one of the most celebrated holidays worldwide. While Christmas often conjures images of gift-giving, festive decorations, and family gatherings, Rick Warren, a renowned pastor and author, invites us to explore beyond the commercial trappings and discover the profound spiritual purpose behind this season. His teachings encourage believers and seekers alike to reconnect with the heart of Christmas—the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth and the hope it brings to humanity.

The Spiritual Foundation of Christmas According to Rick Warren

Rick Warren emphasizes that Christmas is more than a cultural festivity; it is a pivotal moment in God's plan for humanity. In his view, the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of centuries-old prophecies and represents God's ultimate expression of love. This perspective invites us to see Christmas not merely as an annual event but as a reminder of God's purpose for the world.

Jesus: The Center of Christmas

At the core of Rick Warren's message is the belief that Jesus Christ is the reason for Christmas. He often points out that the holiday is a celebration of the arrival of the Savior, who came to bring peace, hope, and salvation to a broken world. This means that Christmas provides an opportunity to reflect on the transformative power of Jesus' life and teachings.

By focusing on Jesus, Warren encourages people to shift their attention from materialism to spiritual renewal. This shift invites individuals to find meaning and joy in their relationship with God, rather than in the temporary pleasures of the season.

The Purpose-Driven Life and Christmas

Rick Warren is best known for his book **The Purpose Driven Life**, which explores God's purpose for every person. Applying this framework to Christmas, he suggests that the holiday serves as a reminder of our own purpose in relation to God's plan. Christmas is about recognizing that we are created for a greater mission—to love God, love others, and share the good

news of Jesus.

This means that during the Christmas season, believers are called to live intentionally, embracing the values of kindness, generosity, and compassion. Warren's teachings encourage people to view Christmas as a catalyst for spiritual growth and purposeful living.

How Rick Warren's Teachings Influence Christmas Traditions

Many Christmas customs have deep roots in Christian theology, and Rick Warren's insights help believers understand how these traditions point back to the purpose of Christmas.

Giving as an Expression of God's Love

One of the most popular aspects of Christmas is the tradition of gift-giving. Warren teaches that this practice reflects the greatest gift ever given—Jesus Christ himself. By giving gifts to others, we mirror God's generosity and kindness.

Warren encourages people to give not only material presents but also their time, love, and support to those in need. This broader understanding of giving enriches the Christmas experience and aligns it with God's heart for humanity.

Celebrating with Family and Community

Christmas is often a time for families to come together, but Rick Warren points out that this gathering also symbolizes the family of God. He highlights the importance of community and fellowship as expressions of the unity and love that Jesus brought into the world.

Warren's teachings inspire believers to use Christmas as an opportunity to strengthen relationships, reconcile differences, and extend grace to others, reflecting the peace that the birth of Christ represents.

Practical Ways to Embrace Rick Warren's Purpose of Christmas

Understanding the purpose of Christmas according to Rick Warren can transform

how we experience the holiday. Here are some practical tips to help align your celebrations with this deeper meaning:

- **Reflect on the Birth of Jesus:** Take time for prayer, meditation, or Bible reading focused on the nativity story to center your heart on Christ.
- **Serve Others:** Volunteer at local shelters, donate to charities, or simply help a neighbor. Serving reflects Jesus' love in action.
- **Give Thoughtfully:** Choose gifts that have meaning or support causes that matter, emphasizing the spirit of giving rather than the value of presents.
- **Practice Gratitude:** Acknowledge the blessings in your life and express thankfulness for God's gift of salvation.
- **Foster Community:** Host or participate in gatherings that encourage fellowship and shared faith, strengthening bonds among family and friends.

Creating a Purpose-Driven Christmas Tradition

By intentionally incorporating Rick Warren's teachings into your holiday traditions, you can create a Christmas experience that resonates spiritually and emotionally. This might include starting a family devotion time, involving children in acts of kindness, or setting aside moments to share stories about the significance of Jesus' birth.

Such traditions help keep the focus on the true purpose of Christmas and can become meaningful rituals that enrich your faith year after year.

Rick Warren's Impact on Contemporary Christmas Celebrations

Rick Warren's influence extends beyond his local church and readership. His messages have helped countless individuals and communities rediscover Christmas's original intent. By emphasizing purpose and spiritual depth, he challenges the often commercialized nature of the holiday season.

Many churches and ministries incorporate Warren's teachings by organizing outreach programs, purpose-driven Christmas sermons, and community service events during December. These initiatives aim to remind people that Christmas is about God's love made manifest in Jesus.

Encouraging a Global Perspective

Another important aspect of Rick Warren's approach is the global impact of Christmas. He encourages believers to think beyond their immediate circles and consider those suffering or in need around the world. This perspective fosters a heart of compassion and motivates support for international missions and humanitarian efforts during the holiday season.

Through this lens, Christmas becomes not only a local celebration but a worldwide movement of hope, peace, and goodwill.

Christmas is ultimately about recognizing and living out the purpose God has for each person, inspired by the miraculous birth of Jesus. Rick Warren's teachings invite us to embrace this purpose with joy, generosity, and faithfulness, making the season truly meaningful.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Rick Warren's main message about the purpose of Christmas?

Rick Warren emphasizes that the purpose of Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to bring hope, salvation, and a restored relationship with God.

How does Rick Warren explain the significance of Jesus' birth during Christmas?

Rick Warren explains that Jesus' birth is significant because it marks God's incredible love for humanity, sending His Son to live among us and offer eternal life.

According to Rick Warren, how should Christians focus their celebration of Christmas?

Rick Warren encourages Christians to focus on the spiritual meaning of Christmas by reflecting on Jesus' life, sharing His love, and serving others during the holiday season.

What practical advice does Rick Warren give for experiencing the true purpose of Christmas?

Rick Warren advises people to engage in acts of kindness, attend church services, and spend quality time with loved ones to truly experience the joy and purpose of Christmas.

How does Rick Warren relate the purpose of Christmas to personal growth?

Rick Warren relates the purpose of Christmas to personal growth by highlighting that embracing Jesus' message can transform hearts, inspire forgiveness, and encourage a life of meaningful purpose.

Does Rick Warren address the commercialization of Christmas in his teachings?

Yes, Rick Warren often points out that the commercialization of Christmas can distract from its true meaning, urging people to prioritize faith and relationships over materialism.

What scripture does Rick Warren often reference when discussing the purpose of Christmas?

Rick Warren frequently references scriptures like John 3:16 and Luke 2:10-11 to illustrate God's love and the joy brought by Jesus' birth.

How can Rick Warren's perspective on Christmas impact non-Christians?

Rick Warren's perspective can inspire non-Christians to understand the historical and spiritual significance of Christmas, promoting peace, hope, and goodwill regardless of religious background.

Additional Resources

Rick Warren Purpose of Christmas: An Analytical Exploration of Meaning and Message

rick warren purpose of christmas encapsulates a profound perspective on the holiday season, inviting believers and seekers alike to reflect on the deeper significance behind the annual celebrations. As one of the most influential evangelical pastors and authors, Rick Warren's teachings about Christmas extend beyond traditional festivities, focusing on spiritual purpose, personal transformation, and the foundational Christian narrative. This article delves into Rick Warren's interpretation of Christmas, exploring how his insights contribute to contemporary understanding and practice of this sacred time.

Understanding Rick Warren's Perspective on

Christmas

Rick Warren, best known for his bestselling book **The Purpose Driven Life**, approaches Christmas through the lens of purpose and intentionality. Unlike the commercialized and often secularized versions of Christmas prevalent in modern culture, Warren emphasizes the holiday's intrinsic connection to God's overarching plan for humanity. His interpretation encourages believers to view Christmas not merely as a seasonal celebration but as a pivotal moment that reveals God's purpose for life and salvation.

Warren's purpose-driven framework situates Christmas as a reminder of God's love manifested in the birth of Jesus Christ. This theological viewpoint is essential for grasping his broader message: every individual's life gains meaning when aligned with the divine purpose, which Christmas exemplifies through the incarnation.

Theological Foundations Behind Warren's Christmas Message

Central to Rick Warren's purpose of Christmas is the incarnation—the belief that God became flesh in the person of Jesus. This event serves as the cornerstone of Christian faith and the heart of Warren's Christmas teachings. In his sermons and writings, Warren highlights several key theological themes:

- **God's love and grace:** Christmas reveals God's initiative to reach out to humanity, offering unconditional love and grace.
- **Redemption and hope:** The birth of Christ signifies hope for redemption, overcoming sin and despair.
- **Purpose and calling:** Jesus' life exemplifies purposeful living, inspiring believers to discover and fulfill their own God-given missions.

This theological underpinning distinguishes Warren's approach from more commercial or cultural explanations of Christmas, grounding the holiday firmly in scripture and faith.

Rick Warren Purpose of Christmas in

Contemporary Culture

In the context of today's society, where Christmas often grapples with commercialization and secular distractions, Rick Warren's message serves as a corrective lens. His emphasis on purpose invites individuals to resist the dilution of Christmas into mere gift-giving and festive cheer, urging a return to spiritual intentionality.

The contemporary relevance of Warren's purpose-driven Christmas is evident in how it addresses common challenges during the holiday season:

- **Consumerism:** Warren critiques the overwhelming focus on materialism, encouraging people to prioritize spiritual reflection over possessions.
- **Loneliness and anxiety:** He acknowledges the emotional struggles many face during Christmas and offers the hope found in embracing God's presence and purpose.
- **Family and relationship dynamics:** Warren stresses the importance of reconciliation and love within families, mirroring the unity revealed in the nativity story.

By framing Christmas as a purposeful experience, Warren helps believers navigate the holiday with a renewed sense of meaning and resolve.

Practical Applications of Warren's Christmas Teachings

Rick Warren's insights extend beyond theology into actionable practices that individuals and communities can adopt during the Christmas season. These practical elements include:

1. **Reflecting on personal purpose:** Using Christmas as a time to assess one's life direction in light of God's plan.
2. **Engaging in acts of service:** Emulating Christ's example by serving others, especially the marginalized, during the holidays.
3. **Prioritizing worship and gratitude:** Centering celebrations around spiritual worship rather than secular festivities.
4. **Building intentional relationships:** Fostering genuine connections that embody the love demonstrated in the Christmas story.

These applications reinforce the idea that Christmas is not only a historical commemoration but a transformative opportunity for spiritual growth and community building.

Comparing Rick Warren's Purpose of Christmas with Other Christian Perspectives

While many Christian leaders emphasize the religious significance of Christmas, Rick Warren's distinctive contribution lies in his focus on purposeful living tied directly to the nativity event. When compared to other theological viewpoints, several nuances emerge:

- **Traditional liturgical emphasis:** Many churches focus on the liturgical and sacramental aspects of Christmas, such as the Advent season and midnight Mass. Warren's approach is more personalized, aimed at individual purpose discovery.
- **Prosperity gospel perspectives:** Some modern teachings frame Christmas in terms of blessings and abundance. Warren, however, prioritizes spiritual purpose and service over material gain.
- **Social justice interpretations:** While Warren advocates for service, his primary focus remains on personal and spiritual transformation rather than systemic change.

These comparisons highlight how Warren's purpose-driven theme offers a complementary yet distinct lens that enriches the broader Christian conversation about Christmas.

Challenges in Embracing Warren's Purpose-Driven Christmas

Despite its inspirational message, adopting Rick Warren's purpose of Christmas is not without challenges. Some potential obstacles include:

- **Cultural resistance:** The pervasive secularization and commercialization of Christmas can make it difficult for individuals to fully embrace a purpose-driven celebration.
- **Personal distractions:** The busy nature of the holiday season often leaves little room for deep reflection or spiritual engagement.

- **Misunderstandings of purpose:** Some may confuse “purpose” with productivity or achievement, missing the spiritual depth Warren advocates.

Addressing these challenges requires intentional effort from both individuals and church communities to cultivate environments conducive to Warren’s vision.

The Impact of Rick Warren’s Purpose of Christmas on Christian Communities

Rick Warren’s teachings have significantly influenced contemporary Christian thought and practice, particularly around the Christmas season. His emphasis on purpose resonates with millions who seek meaning beyond tradition and ritual. Churches that incorporate Warren’s perspective often report enhanced engagement during the holidays, as congregants find renewed motivation to connect faith with daily life.

Moreover, Warren’s focus on service and outreach during Christmas has encouraged many communities to expand charitable activities, making the holiday a time of tangible impact rather than mere celebration. This alignment of purpose, faith, and action embodies the transformative potential Warren envisions.

In summary, the phrase **rick warren purpose of christmas** encapsulates a rich and multifaceted message. It challenges individuals to look beyond surface-level customs and rediscover the spiritual heart of Christmas—the incarnation of Jesus Christ—and its implications for purposeful living. Through theological depth, cultural critique, and practical guidance, Rick Warren’s interpretation continues to shape how many experience and understand Christmas in the modern world.

[Rick Warren Purpose Of Christmas](#)

rick warren purpose of christmas: The Purpose of Christmas Rick Warren, 2012-12-11 In his powerful yet compassionate voice, Pastor Rick Warren tells the most wonderful story of all - the story of God come to earth in the form of a human infant. Warren goes back to that day long ago when the baby Jesus was born in the manger. In this clarion call to 'remember the reason for the season', readers are taken back in time to the simple origins of a baby who changed history forever. Warren gives readers an intimate look into his family heritage as he shares the fifty-year-old Warren Christmas tradition of having a birthday party for Jesus. Through stirring imagery and compelling insights, this book celebrates the significance and promise of this cherished holiday.

rick warren purpose of christmas: *The Purpose of Christmas Curriculum* Rick Warren, 2008-11-09 The Purpose of Christmas DVD Study for groups and families features three sessions

taught by Rick Warren on why we celebrate Christmas and how it can change our lives forever. At the very first Christmas - the birth of Jesus - an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. The three sessions on this DVD looks at each of those purposes: 1. Christmas is a time for celebration 2. Christmas is a time for salvation 3. Christmas is a time for reconciliation The Purpose of Christmas DVD Pack includes both the DVD and The Purpose of Christmas DVD Study Guide.

rick warren purpose of christmas: I Am the Living Proof-Jacqueline's Life, Purpose and Parables Jacqueline R. Mendoza, 2012-03-30 I AM THE LIVING PROOF Jacquelines Life, Purpose and Parables Portrays the method of being 97% dead awakened, proved She will rise through obstacles in her journey to share How despite of her physical difficulties she struggled Wisdom, Courage Perseverance, Patience and Tolerance Added with her enormous amount of determination Hope and Faith Amazing how God showed His love In finding out who really is Jesus Christ As He chose her to spread about the truth Of His Gospel She wants to assist people in knowing the facts Treated it as her job for Jesus Christ To be a resource for the reality of God She wants to plant a seed in your minds Her way of communicating to people As Christ placed her in mission Souls in Hell of fire, furnace of fire and unquenchable fire Thought Jesus did not do anything He gave you a freedom to choose People chooses the path of hell Must choose the right decision Once youre there, you cannot go back Its forever Do not just accept Think wisely, Research, Study and comprehend Which is the path to Jesus Christ that leads to Heaven and face the Father?

rick warren purpose of christmas: Get on the Journey David Smith, 2015-08-04 What is Get On The Journey? Several years ago I felt led to start writing mens devotions. They were primarily written for JourneyMen, men on a journey and walking with Christ. I soon found out that my devotions were not only being read by JourneyMen but also by women on the journey. Daily and manly activities end up being themes for devotion. Gods Word can be applied to my life, and in turn to your life, through these devotions. Devotion life topics include fishing, washing the car, cleaning the pool, watching television, Peyton Manning being released, working, sleeping, winning, losing, granite shopping, etc. Each devotional also contains probing questions that can be used for self-examination or for small group study. Get On The Journey contains fifty-two devotions that recap a year of my life and writing but can be read and explored on your journey at your own pace. David Smith, Journeymen Why should you get on the journey? Through trials and temptations God will strengthen our faith as we journey in the race of life. It is here I find Davids devotionals an inspiration for each one of us who gather together in the name of Christ. David has a special talent for reflecting lifes circumstances as a tool to help us all join in the race together. Sometimes we laugh, and sometimes we cry. As you read Davids devotionals, meditate on your own life circumstances. Consider how God is shaping and molding you to be a JourneyMana man on a journey in life with Jesus as his Savior. Pastor Rod Lindemann, Journeymen

rick warren purpose of christmas: Be Still Charles L. Mashburn, 2010-11-24 In todays chaotic and challenging world, we all need encouragement. For the past fifteen years, my wife and I have utilized various daily devotionals for that helpful dose of inspiration to start our day. This book is written from the perspective of a not-so-perfect Christian in a manner that will speak to men and women of all ages and faiths, and provide them a simple encouraging, uplifting bit of insight for each day of the year. I believe this book will allow those who read it to gain a fresh understanding of God, His love for them, and His plan for their life. And as they begin to understand God's love, they will experience the joy and peace He offers to those who love and trust Him. The first 105 devotionals deal with Bible verses from Genesis to Revelations that speak about not being afraid. The second phase deals with verses from Matthew through Revelations that speak of Gods love. And the remaining days of the year are writings on verses from Matthew through Revelations relating to joy and peace. The writing of these encouragements has blessed me beyond measure and brought me closer to the Lord than I ever thought I could be. I pray they do the same for you.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Sin Bravely Mark Ellingsen, 2009-04-01 Mark Ellingsen dares you to go ahead and sin bravely! In this refreshing and unique book, he challenges the

religious legalism pervasive throughout American evangelicalism today and encourages a new understanding of what it means to be both a Christian and a human being. Equipped with the joyful, rebellious vision of Martin Luther, father of the Protestant reformation, and the latest in neuroscientific research, Ellingsen offers a new approach for healthy living - one opposed to the duty-oriented, selfish and stifling conception of faith that has gained such a strong foothold in contemporary American culture. It is an approach that fully embraces the active role that God's grace plays in each person's life and the fun and freedom one gains from it. Beginning with the first theological analysis of Rick Warren's brand of Christianity, this book exposes the burdens and narcissism that purpose-driven and duty-bound living encourages, and includes the purveyors of the Prosperity Gospel, taught by such influential preachers like Joel Osteen, in his critique. Ellingsen writes that brave sinners, aware of God's grace in their lives, instead say no to narcissism and yes to healthy risk-taking that gets beyond selfish desires to the desire to help one another. When people sin bravely, acknowledging that everything done is done in sin with God's saving grace acting upon them, people can learn to recognize God. This awareness leads to freedom and joy, since the pressure is now removed to do and be good. In addition, total dependence on God entails a self-forgetfulness that leads to happiness. The more boldly someone acknowledges their sin, in failing to take credit for the good they have done, the more focused on God the individual becomes. Correspondingly, this self-forgetful lifestyle is a promising counter-cultural alternative to the cultural narcissism, which so dominate in many segments of contemporary American society. This book demonstrates both how and why brave sinning leads to joy, and in so doing offers readers practical advice on living this way. Ellingsen also cites recent neurobiological findings showing that when people forget themselves in order to focus on bigger projects, the pleasure centers of the brain are stimulated and people become happier and more content. It is this joyous risk-taking that he suggests brings people closer together, closer to God, and closer to a better understanding of themselves. Sin Bravely dares to be that joyful alternative to the purpose driven life.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Because of Bethlehem (with Bonus Content) Max Lucado, 2016-09-13 For some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and quality time with loved ones. For others, it's full of loneliness, grief, and loss. Join New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado as he unwraps the enduring promises of Christmas and discovers a lifetime of hope, all because of one baby born in Bethlehem. It's easy to lose sight of the remarkable story of Christmas. We forget that a king ordered a census, Joseph was forced to travel, Mary bounced on a donkey's back, the hotel was full, the hour was late, and the event was one big hassle. Yet, out of that hassle, hope was born. In *Because of Bethlehem*, Max invites us to look at the Christmas story from a different perspective. He reminds us that Christmas is about more than a pretty tree with presents piled up underneath it. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates: the child in the cradle who goes on to become the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a place on earth and a Savior in heaven. In the midst of your hectic Christmas season, Max will give you the encouragement, advice, and tools you need to: Rekindle your connection to the Christ of Christmas Receive the promises of the Christmas season Lay down your endless Christmas to-do list and trust what Jesus has already done Heal your heartache by embracing the God who is always near you, always for you, and always with you *Because of Bethlehem* also includes an Advent Devotional Guide designed to help you reflect on the miracle of Christ's birth and the promise of his return. As you curl up in a comfortable spot and take a closer look at the wild and wonderful story of Bethlehem, may you find enduring faith for all seasons of your life. No matter what this season holds for you, rest in the truth that the promise of Christmas has the power to bring you a lifetime of hope and healing.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Love Always Beth Clarkson Rogers, 2013-10 Overview coming soon

rick warren purpose of christmas: GO...MAKE...RIPPLES Jennifer Godwin, 2022-05-23 What does a meal prayer, bumper sticker, a baptism in a kitchen sink, and a bold question have in common? These are some of the ways people "Rippled" Jesus into Jennifer's life that led her into a personal relationship with Him. Read how Jennifer grew into the Christian woman she is today,

through trials, errors, and perseverance. While you read her story, you will learn SIMPLE ways to share Jesus and how to help others grow spiritually. This book will help you to reflect on the question, "What kind of ripples can I make for the Kingdom of God?"

rick warren purpose of christmas: The Book Publishing Industry Albert N. Greco, Jim Milliot, Robert Wharton, 2013-07-31 The Book Publishing Industry focuses on consumer books (adult, juvenile, and mass market paperbacks) and reviews all major book categories to present a comprehensive overview of this diverse business. In addition to the insights and portrayals of the U.S. publishing industry, this book includes an appendix containing historical data on the industry from 1946 to the end of the twentieth century. The selective bibliography includes the latest literature, including works in marketing and economics that has a direct relationship with this dynamic industry. This third edition features a chapter on e-books and provides an overview of the current shift toward digital media in the US book publishing industry.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Prophet of Purpose Jeffery L. Sheler, 2009-11-03 Rick Warren is arguably the most influential man in American religion today. Megachurch pastor, friend of world leaders, and trend-setting spiritual entrepreneur, he is widely recognized as the new public face of evangelical Christianity in America. No other modern churchman has matched his success as a leader and motivator of Christians. His book, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, is the bestselling nonfiction hardcover of all time, with more than 25 million copies sold. At a time when evangelicalism stands at a political and cultural crossroads, his stature continues to rise. But who is Rick Warren? What can be learned from the story of the man behind the message? And what does his life say about the state of Christianity today? *Prophet of Purpose: The Life of Rick Warren* traces the road Warren has traveled, the influences in his life, his trials and temptations, and the opposition he has encountered along the way. Honest, thorough, and insightful, it explores his spiritual coming of age during the turbulent 1960s, his principled determination to sit out the divisive battles between fundamentalists and moderates in the Southern Baptist Convention in the late 1970s, and his audacious endeavor in the 1980s to build a "church for people who hate church" in the suburbs of Los Angeles. From a handful of worshippers meeting in a tiny apartment, he grew a vibrant congregation of over 22,000 and a global network of pastors who follow his strategies for building churches and transforming lives. In this unofficial biography, Jeffery L. Sheler, who had unfettered access to Warren and those closest to him, presents an intimate portrait of Warren as a man of faith and vision but also of flesh and blood and human foibles—a pastor, communicator, philanthropist, and family man who is driven by a sense of divine purpose to complete the course his God has set before him. *Prophet of Purpose* brings Warren and his mission to life and provides a provocative glimpse into the potential future of Christianity in America.

rick warren purpose of christmas: In the Name of Purpose Tamara Hartzell, 2007-01-23

rick warren purpose of christmas: God's Gift to You Ithurburn Fred Ithurburn, Fred Ithurburn, 2009-12 The Roman Catholic Church's Eucharist should be open to anyone, regardless of whether or not that person has been baptized, is sinful or follows another religion. That's because Jesus Christ invites everyone to his banquet. But not all people feel the same as Fred Bert Ithurburn, a layperson who has written more than 200 letters to Pope Benedict XVI. He's still waiting for a response, but he isn't giving up on spreading the message of acceptance first brought to the world by Jesus. Just think how different the world would be if the early church fathers understood and applied the New Covenant properly, assuring a continued Gift of Eucharist to everyone. Jews might have accepted the more inclusive religion as a continuation of their own, and Mohammed might have felt welcome at a table where he was equally loved. The Greek and Roman Catholics would find no dispute, and no crusade would have sacked Constantinople. And that would have just been the beginning. In this sequel to *God's Gift to You*, you'll read some of the author's letters to the pope and decide for yourself the true meaning of the Eucharist.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Another Jesus, a Different Spirit, a Different Gospel Steven H. Propp, 2011-12-13 It's the Christmas season—the most wonderful time of the year for most people in River City, California. But for Jehovah's Witnesses Lawrence and Brad, it's a time for them

to try to explain the truth about this holiday season to the people of the community. Their earnest efforts may earn them ridicule, disagreement, or a door slammed rudely in their faces, but they persist and are sometimes able to find a mind and heart receptive to their urgent message about Jehovah's coming Kingdom. Whereas for Elders Skousen and Marshall's two Latter-day Saint (Mormon) missionaries the season is another opportunity to share their Church's distinctive interpretation of the Christian gospel; but their efforts are often rebuffed, as well. In the course of their work, these two pairs of men engage in dialogue with traditional Christians, as well as members of the Church of Christ; the Community of Christ (RLDS); Seventh-day Adventists; and Oneness Pentecostals not to mention skeptics, atheists, and the increasing numbers of people who lack any particular religious beliefs. But when a local church brings in a researcher to give a series of lectures on Cults and specifically targeting the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons a confrontation is ensured, where theological and biblical concepts collide in a public forum. Who, if anyone, really has the Truth? Can one still discover the true meaning of Christmas in the midst of passionate disagreements over the validity of the holiday season? Are objections raised about the secularization and rampant commercialism of the modern celebration valid? Spend a holiday season (or any other season) with some interesting and intellectually-stimulating characters, as they explore these and other challenging questions. (Readers of the authors' earlier novel, *A Multicultural Christmas*, will be pleased to see a brief reappearance of two characters from that book.)

rick warren purpose of christmas: Rob Saranpa, 2007-10-01 As Santa Claus is making his regular, yearly rounds, he climbs down a chimney and rolls right into Jesus Christ. But Santa can't find that name on his list, because no one ever told him about Jesus. Find out what happens when the most famous personalities of the holiday season meet for the first time . . . and Santa Claus learns the true meaning of Christmas.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Father of the Universe Philip Reynolds ThB, 2015-08-12 *Father of the Universe: Creation Theory and End-Time Vision* grounds its explorations of God, of his act to create the whole world, and of the shape that the end of all things will take on the foundations of the scriptural witness and the dreams that Philip Reynolds, the author, had in 1954. From these two sources he fashions a portrait of God the Father as he has experienced him and envisions him. In addition, he refines a theology of creation and humanity's beginnings. Finally, he shows how the Father has sent his Son to bring people, through the work of the Spirit, into his presence. In the course of this journey, *Father of the Universe* looks at the Father before time, his holiness, how he is Father of time and angels, his nation, and the church. The journey ends with a vision of the future humanity can hope to share with the Father. You might be someone who, at some point, has asked the hard questions: Is there more to life than this? What is the point of it all? What does God the Father intend for me, my family, my community, and this world? If you are one who asks those questions, then *Father of the Universe: Creation Theory and End-time Vision* will serve as your guide for glimpsing the outlines of some answers about the Father and his designs for creation.

rick warren purpose of christmas: You Can Count on God Max Lucado, 2021-11-02 Find hope and courage to keep moving forward as you learn to depend on God more each day. Today's worries and anxieties can seem overwhelming, but trusted pastor and New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado leads you to greater peace through this 365-day devotional of short, powerful readings and Scripture verses. No matter what happens in this ever-changing world, God invites us to count on him because he never changes. Each dated entry in *You Can Count on God* includes: An engaging devotion from Lucado with his trademark inspirational style Comforting Scripture to bring us back to God's promises Encouragement to receive God's peace even in challenging circumstances Reminders of how God gives us the courage to try new things Strength to make it through any trial we face This year-long devotional is a perfect gift for men and women needing courage for a new season of life or anyone struggling with anxiety about the future. *You Can Count on God* calls you to know God on a deeper level as you remember his faithfulness through all generations.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Baby Boom Rusty Monihollon, 2010-02-09 This engaging collection of essays explores the many ways Americans of every race, class, gender, and political

leaning experienced the Baby Boom. This revealing new work goes inside the Baby Boom generation to look at how everyday people within the boomer demographic changed—and were changed by—the course of American history. *Baby Boom: People and Perspectives* does not focus on one single historic moment, but rather follows different groups within the Baby Boom generation as they move through history. From the generation gap of the 1950s to the civil rights movement, from Vietnam and the counterculture of the 1960s to Watergate and the Reagan era, and from the Clinton years to September 11th and the recent resurgence of conservatism, this insightful social history shows how Baby Boomers across the breadth of American society experienced and impacted the same historic events differently.

rick warren purpose of christmas: Grand Theft Jesus Robert S. McElvaine, 2009 We're mad as Heaven, and we're not going to take it anymore! declares historian Robert McElvaine in this passionate and often hilarious rallying cry for sincere Jesus followers. He lets us know that the extreme right wing won't be allowed to speak for all Christians any longer. This polemic blends outrage and humor to expose the televangelists and the leaders of megachurches as the people Jesus warned us about. The religion McElvaine calls ChristianityLite promises, Be saved without sacrifice or good works! Run by a crew of politicians, megachurch preachers, televangelists, hypocrites, and snake-oil salesmen, it has hijacked true Christianity and distorted it into something Jesus wouldn't recognize, a religion that advocates war and intolerance, values money above charity, preaches hatred instead of brotherhood, and promises true believers the keys to the gates of the kingdom of God--and to the bank.--From publisher description.

rick warren purpose of christmas: The One Year Devotions for Women Ann Spangler, 2012-08-17 Don't we all want just a little more peace in our lives? Peace in relationships. Peace at home and at work. Peace from painful memories. Release from pressures and demands that threaten to crush us. What if we could build a moment of peace into every day of the year, opening our hearts to the peace God has promised? Wouldn't it be great to live with less fear and anxiety and with more confidence and joy? The One Year Devotions for Women is a chance to spend time with God every day, to breathe deeply and grab on to the kind of peace that only God can offer—a peace far richer and more satisfying than anything we can hope or imagine. Each of these uplifting devotions includes a key Scripture verse, a devotional reading, and a suggested prayer for connecting with God.

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