

Christmas and Santa Claus

Illustration Dan and Sally had two children: Eric (*4 years old*) and Mary (*3 years old*). As they were growing up, Dan and Sally told them all about Santa Claus, and how he was watching them to see if they were bad or good, saying “You cannot see him, but he is watching you”. They told their children about Easter bunny, the tooth fairy, etc., saying “They are real, you just do not see them.” They told them other things to make them behave: “You better stay in bed, or the monster under your bed will get you.” When the children were older, they learned all these things were falsehoods.

Dan and Sally always taught their children about God. They taught them that God was always watching over them, even though they could not see him, God would see if they are bad or good. The problem was, Dan did not take these things seriously; it sounded too much like another Santa Claus story.

In make-believe, all the players know it is make-believe.

Lying is trying convince someone (*including children*) a falsehood is true/real.

Santa Claus is not make-believe, but a lie, if our effort is to get the children to believe that Santa Claus truly exists. Asking “What did Santa Claus bring you for Christmas?” is being part of the lie. Every time we talk as if Santa Claus is real, we are deceiving (*lying to*) the children.

Children learn by example. If we always tell our children the truth, our children will always believe us. If we tell our children falsehoods, they’ll believe it is acceptable to tell falsehoods; and will question our truthfulness when we talk to them. We teach the children by example.

Illustration Tom told his children lying is bad; it is a sin. He said they needed to stop telling lies, or they would end up living forever in a very bad place. Five minutes later, he told them Santa Claus is real.

Christmas can be an extremely exciting day for the children. The children's excitement is a result of the gifts, not Santa Claus. Children understand, enjoy, and get very excited about a birthday party for Jesus Christ, in which they receive their gifts. As Christians, let's celebrate Christ's birthday in truth with our children.

Lying is defying God.

So how can we honor Jesus Christ, while we are lying to our children?

What does God think about Santa Claus, the falsehood which has taken center stage away from Jesus Christ on Christmas?

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