

# The Word FM

## Christmas Music FAQs

### **Q: Why do you play all Christmas music from Thanksgiving through Christmas?**

A: We thoughtfully and prayerfully decided to do this Christmas emphasis as an evangelistic tool. When we polled many of you, the overwhelming majority of Word FM listeners told us they would support this ministry outreach at Christmas. Our Christmas stream online was very popular last year, so we realized our listeners really wanted to hear Christmas music.

You may have experienced the reality that your friends and family are a little more open to hearing about spiritual things during this time of year. Many that would never go to church normally seem to be more open to doing so during the holidays. It's also true that friends and family who would never listen to Christian radio are more open to do so when they're listening to a station playing all Christmas music. We hope you'll use this time of year to invite your friends to listen to Your Musical Home for Christmas: Positive and Encouraging – The Word FM.

### **Q: I hear some songs from artists that I don't believe are Christian. Why is that?**

A: This is a joyous season of celebration about the birth of Jesus Christ. When you hear these songs on positive, encouraging Word FM, we're asking you to cover them in prayer because they are "hooks" that are designed to attract people who don't normally listen to us. Keep in mind that the majority of songs you hear on The Word FM are very clear with the true meaning of Christmas pointed people to Christ. We have included specific classic Christmas songs most of our listeners remember from childhood that remind them of Christmas. However, be assured we're not abandoning the message that Christ is the reason we celebrate Christmas. As you listen, we believe you'll hear that message clearly.

### **Q: What about Santa Claus?**

A: There can be no doubt that the primary focus of The Word FM music is about Jesus Christ and His birth. While not everyone includes Santa Claus as part of Christmas, there really was a St. Nicholas. Born into a wealthy family during the fourth century, Nicholas was a Christian man who loved children and his neighbors, and spent his life privately giving gifts to the unfortunate. These acts of Christian charity - usually made secretly - probably led to the practice of exchanging gifts at Christmas. Nicholas gave to others expecting nothing in return. It is this selfless generosity that made Nicholas' gifts a reflection of the gift God gave us in His Son. Some Christians use this time of the year as a time to teach their children how to practice selfless giving like St. Nicholas. More about the traditions of Christmas are found at Koinonia House < <http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/310/> >

Dr. James Dobson offers another perspective on this subject:

*"Christmas memories are among the most cherished of all my childhood reminiscences. The fantasy of Santa Claus coming on Christmas Eve was an important part of the fun. I'm reluctant to deprive today's kids of an experience that was so exciting for me. On the other hand, I understand the concerns expressed by many Christian parents about the pagan celebration of Christmas. They don't want to link Santa Claus, a mythical figure, with the reality of the baby Jesus who was born in Bethlehem of Judea. They have good reason to fear that they might weaken the validity of the Christmas story by mixing it with fantasy. So this is the dilemma - Santa is fun, but Santa could be confusing. What are Christian parents to do? This is a judgment call to be made by a given family. Shirley and I chose to play the "Santa game" with our kids, and we had no difficulties teaching them who Jesus was and is. Other families regret mixing the two images. What is best? I don't know. But if I had to do it over, I would still let my children thrill to the excitement of Santa's arrival down the chimney on Christmas Eve."*

I hope this helps you understand why we're doing this. We know everyone may not agree or understand, but we simply want to use the tools of Christmas to reach more people for Christ.

Thanks for praying with us and for helping us fulfill the vision to which God has called us – to impact lives wherever The Word FM can be heard.