



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost' sermon notes

from December 22nd, 2019

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+ Charlie Brown True Meaning of Christmas (Video)... See on [YouTube](#)

+ **A Charlie Brown Christmas** was an animated television special commissioned and sponsored by Coca-Cola

- It first aired on CBS on December 9, 1965
- It was part of the comic strip **Peanuts**, and written by **Charles Schulz**
- Schulz's main goal for a Peanuts-based Christmas special was to focus on the true meaning of Christmas
- The Producer & Director expressed concerns with the Bible piece and thought it should be left out. But **Schulz insisted on it** and wrote it as the final buildup of the movie, making it impossible to be cut out. **For Schulz, Jesus Belonged in Christmas...**

+ Linus quotes from the gospel of **Luke chapter 2**...

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, behold, the angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them: and they were greatly afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not! (Just a curious point, this is the only time that Linus lets go of his security blanket. All through the Peanuts series, Lucy, Snoopy, Sally and others tried unsuccessfully to get Linus to lose his security blanket. Even through all the ridicule, he never gave in... until this moment!) Fear not! for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”. Luke 2: 8-11



+ Between the ages of 6 to 10 years old my family lived in Lima, Peru...

- Sunday dinners were always very special. Mom cooked amazing meals: usually a roast, with awesome rice, gravy and peas and carrots for a vegetable. Real butter, fresh bread and pie for dessert.
- We always had company at the table (Butter)
- When mom announced it was time for dinner, we all came quickly but we never started to eat until everyone had sat down and dad prayed giving thanks for the food.
- Mom was always the last one to sit down. She would serve the table, uncover the lids of the dishes, make sure everything was ready and then she sat down. Always at the same spot of the table!
That was mom's place!
- We would never start eating until mom sat down! Once mom sat down, dad would pray and we would all start to eat... “Pass the peas” “Please pass the gravy” “Who has the butter?”

+ We have been speaking this Christmas on the subject **Home for Christmas**.

Three weeks ago, Jeremy spoke on how through an encounter with Jesus I can belong at the table.

I BELONG

Then Chad talked about how Jesus desires His table to be full and we are called to invite others to God's table. **THEY BELONG**

Last Sunday, Wayne talked about our relationship with each other and how we are to appreciate each other at God's table. **WE BELONG**

Just like when I answered the call “Dinner is ready!” I knew I had a place at the table. We knew that it was important to welcome others to our table (Candlelight). **We knew how important it was to honour each other and have table manners** but dinner never started until mom was at her place at the table!

How unfortunate it is, when we celebrate Christmas, when we sit at our tables with friends and family, when we exchange gifts, sing carols, have our feast, glitter, lights and holiday music, but forget to invite the one who prepared the meal, set the table, called us to the table. The reason for the season yet we forget to invite Him to the table.

If anyone belongs at the table, **HE BELONGS!**

+ **Illustration:** “Baby Jesus is missing...” (Police officer) “What’s missing?” (Kids)

“Is Jesus missing in your Christmas?” “In your Christmas plans?”

+ There is this **allegorical** painting by the English artist **William Holman Hunt** called “*The Light of the World*”. It illustrates Jesus preparing to knock on a door, inspired by **Revelation 3:20**:



"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with them, and they with me".

Hunt said that he felt called to paint this picture. The painting is full of symbolisms (Kids, on the other side of your placeholder):

- The long-unopened door is overgrown with ivy and wild grass.
- The outside is unkept. In the grass lie rotten apples and the fruit trees and the garden are abandoned.
- The lamp represents His words **“I am the light of the world”.**
- There are two crowns on his head, the one of a King and a crown of thorns. For **he is the King of Kings who went to the cross for our sins.**
- The door has no handle... and can be opened **ONLY** from the inside. He is asking to come in! **The door is your heart!**

+ **Illustration:** “Give your heart to Jesus”

What does it mean to “give your heart to Jesus”?

- All over the world and in the Bible, the heart is the language of love and relationship.
- We say things like: *“I love you with all of my heart”*
- It’s a beautiful **metaphor** that expresses a commitment to someone from the deepest centre of our being.
- God loved us so much that He gave us His best and **to give Him our heart is to give Him the very centre of our affection and loyalty.** **HE BECOMES No. 1 TO US!**

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone...

This verse was written to Christians! Sometimes our door to Jesus gets shut, the weeds of distraction take over, and our spiritual garden is unkept and Jesus gets left out...

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, **(Opens their heart)** I will come in and dine with them, and they with me." **THAT IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP.**

– Is Jesus at the table of your heart? Or is He missing?

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” **(Christ at the centre of my heart!)**

Not just at Christmas (but also at Christmas!) and the rest of the year!

Closing invitation

- *Weeds of distractions*
- *Unattended spiritual garden*
- *Maybe fear or worry has gripped your heart “fear not!”*
- *Invite him...*