

## Christmas Truce

You've probably heard the quote: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" or "History has a way of repeating itself." This past election was very similar to that of 1948 when the Democrat President Harry S Truman defied the polls and won a surprise victory against the Republican candidate Thomas Dewey. Yet, in 1948, people didn't turn on each other, bash one another or throw out family members because of who they voted for. Plainly speaking, this is simply the effect of one not getting their own way.

God's plan is always best. He knows what is good for each person, family, or for our society at large. This current division between loved ones is not of God. I have heard repeated stories of family members being forbidden to attend holiday meals, or they no longer wanted contact with them because of who they voted for.

Seriously, there is something deeply wrong here and this is not of God. All this division got me thinking... The other day I was reminded of something that happened in 1914, during World War 1.

*Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.*

*At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.*

*Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more somber task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines.*

*The Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers' threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.*

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/christmas-truce-of-1914>

If history teaches us anything, it teaches that we have all gone astray and that God is forever searching for us and bringing us back to a place where we can know Him. Disrespect and dishonor against families or loved ones, is something so alien to God's plan because He desires we love one another.

Today is not a call for a just temporary truce, but a permanent one! It's time we focus on our behavior rather than everyone else's. Only then can we figure out what to do differently to accept one another in genuine love.

Love was the very reason that Jesus was born into this world and is the very essence of God's purpose for us.

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