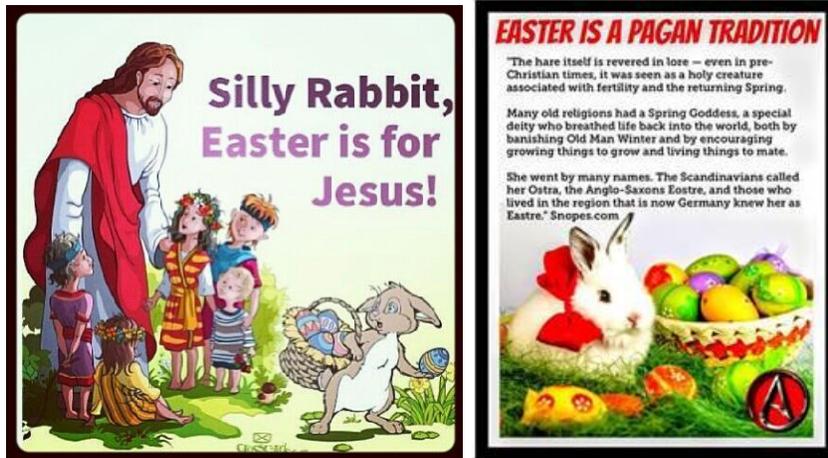


Daily Life with Christ. Love-25: Understanding the objective, universal, unchanging, eternal nature of love: Loving Easter Bunnies . . . Loving the resurrection of the Son of God.



(Pdf copy at <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/040218.pdf>; for background and complete series, see <http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>).

George: Did you have a nice Easter?

Stephen: You mean, “Resurrection Sunday”?

George: Yes, of course. Do you have a problem with the word “Easter”?

Stephen: Yes, although I try not to be a big deal out of it. I just don’t like all the paganism that is mixed with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The transcendent true/good/beautiful of the resurrection of the Son of God and the hope of eternal life is mixed up with bunnies and eggs. In a word, this is “syncretism.” As you probably know, when Christian missionaries would go out and witness to pagans, they let the pagans keep their gods, especially fertility gods, and this is where we got the Easter Bunny and eggs.

George: Yes, but the kids love it so much!

Stephen: I know . . . I don’t make a big deal of it. But I think it is important to keep Resurrection of Christ as pure as we can.

George: It not like Christians worship the bunny or celebrate sexual fertility rites it originally connoted . . . or the myth about the bunny who laid eggs.

Stephen: I know. But I do not see how Resurrection Sunday is not watered down due to bunnies, peeps, and eggs. Why do we need these pagan emblems? What do they have to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ? The syncretism reminds me a bit of Golden Calf . . . you know when they made Golden Calf, they called the calf Yahweh. They kept the same name, LORD, see Exodus 32:3.

George: Are you equating Christians celebrating Easter with eggs and candy bunnies with Jews before Golden Calf?

Stephen: No! What I said is that it reminds of the "syncretism." Syncretism is when you mix things together—in this case the mixing of the resurrection of the Son of God with bunnies and peeps. What one mixes need not be gross immorality like Golden Calf, but when you do mix things, you no longer can have the purity of each thing you mix. All I am saying is that the beauty and the glory resurrection of the Son of God is mixed up and thus its transcendent form/whatness is corrupted--its transcendent beauty is "deformed." When the missionaries told pagans that were celebrating the coming of Spring and the new life with bunnies and other fertility signs that they did not want to take away their gods, but just add a new God, the Son of God, they compromised the beauty of the Son of God, especially the resurrection. I think Christian parents who get more excited about promoting bunnies and eggs with their children more than enlightening them about the beauty of the resurrection of Son of God should stop and think about this. We always seek what we love. Should children not be shown the beauty of Son of God . . . preeminently and without admixture? Which do you think most in culture today would rather ignore or downplay on Easter: Jesus Christ or the Easter Bunny?

George: I think you are being legalistic! I think you are being a bad witness to make Christians feel guilty when all they want is for their children to have fun at Easter! Why do you bring up all the fertility issues? Can't you just leave well enough alone?