

Easter

by

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Across the nation employers will be giving their employees a day off from work tomorrow – Friday the 15th of March. This 3-day weekend is known as Easter Holiday.

The problem though is that we have become so used to calling these 3-day weekends holidays. These extended weekends have become times for us to take vacations, have backyard barbeques, and family get-togethers. We have forgotten the meaning of these times off from work. For children, because they have not been taught otherwise, these weekends are simply days off from school.

Almost all 3-day weekends are not really holidays but celebrations or remembrances. They were not meant to be a vacation or some other activity. We no longer formally acknowledge the importance of what the time means. So let's look at some of those 3-day weekends we get from our employers and what they mean:

New Year's Day	This day symbolizes good fortune and making resolutions concerning what one hopes to accomplish in the next year it means fresh starts, the beginning of something new, and being able to change something about you.
Memorial Day	This is a day set aside for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving their country and protecting our citizens while in the United States armed forces. This is not and should not be a day of joy and happiness, vacation, or other cheerful/joyful activities.
Independence Day	This annual celebration commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress. It is a day for celebration
Labor Day	The 3-day weekend honors and recognizes the American labor movement and the contributions of the working men and women to the development and achievements of the United States.
Veterans Day	Initially this holiday was established to the honor men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces, on the anniversary of the end of World War I. However its focus now is to honor the 19.5+ million men and women who have served in the U.S. military.
Thanksgiving Day	This national holiday is celebrated as a day that symbolizes peace, thankfulness through feasting and giving thanks for divine favors or goodness,
Christmas	Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Specifically, it is the remembrance and celebration of God's presence in our world through Jesus, God-made flesh.
Good Friday/Easter	This 3-day weekend is both one of mourning (Good Friday) and one of celebration (Easter Sunday). Good Friday is the day of

mourning for when Christ died on the cross. It is also a day to celebrate the miracle of a thief who accepted Christ as the son of God. Easter Sunday is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the tomb, the third *day* after his crucifixion. The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death. His resurrection means the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him.



These are not all of the celebrated holidays, but they are the ones that deal should concern us the most as they impact our freedoms, rights, morals, and ethics. We need to instill these attributes in our children by explaining the meaning of each of the above holidays, what they mean, and how they are to be celebrated. These holidays are not about, and should not be about, holidays, days off from work, vacations, or Easter egg hunts, but rather times for reflection on who and what we are.

Easter was the beginning of our hope and salvation!
Christ's resurrection bestows on us God's favor and
blessings as a reminder that His love endures forever.