

The Candy Cane A Symbol of Salvation

The red-and-white-striped, sugary candy cane can be found everywhere at Christmastime. It's as much an ornament as it is a confection, and people munch these treats and decorate with them, scarcely giving a thought to just where candy canes came from in the first place.

It has become fashionable of late to claim that the candy cane was not only designed to be fraught with Christian religious symbolism, but that it was created as a means by which persecuted Christians could furtively identify each other.

A couple different legends are offered as to the origin of the candy cane which may or may not be true. As of late some of the legends have been proven false (see www.snopes.com). We may not know for sure exactly how the candy cane was invented, but there is one thing for certain... it is an excellent picture of Christ and His love for you.

1. The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff to remind us that Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His sheep.
Psalm 23:1
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
2. Upside down the candy cane is a "J", the first letter of Jesus' name.
Luke 1:31
You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus
3. It is made of hard candy to remind us that Christ is our rock and our salvation.
Psalm 62:5-7
Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
4. The wide red stripes on the candy cane can represent the blood He shed on the cross for each one of us so that we can have eternal life through Him.
Colossians 1:19-22
For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.
5. The white stripes on a candy cane can remind us of; — the virgin birth,
Isaiah 7:14
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel
— AND sinless life and purity of our Lord.
Hebrews 4:15
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.
6. The three narrow red stripes on candy canes can symbolize;
— That by His stripes, or wounds, we are healed.
Isaiah 53:4-5
But he took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us. We saw his suffering and thought God was punishing him. But he was wounded for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds.
— The Trinity - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
7. The common flavoring in the candy cane is peppermint, which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is of the mint family and was used in Old Testament times for purification and sacrifice just as Jesus sacrificed His life for ours.
8. When we break our candy cane it reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us. (COMMUNION)

Have you experienced the Salvation that the Candy Cane symbolizes? If not all you need to do is:

1. First, confess. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
2. Second, repent. Turn from sin to God. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15).
3. Third, believe. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).
4. Fourth, receive. Again God said, "To all who received Him [Christ], to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).