

Why the Candy Cane Points Us Back to the Cross

One of the sweetest treats of Christmas is more than just a piece of candy. It is a reminder of the One who gave everything for us to be saved from our sins.

Traditionally, the candy cane symbolizes the gospel to us—a small, simple object that carries profound spiritual truth. Its colors, shape and even the stripes tell a story of Christ's love and sacrifice.

- **The red color of the candy cane represents Christ's blood shed for us on the cross.** The vivid red reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for humanity. As the Bible says in 1 John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin." Every time we see the red, we are reminded of the price He paid so that we could be reconciled to God.
- **The white connects back to the purity we receive through Christ's suffering, when He cleansed us of our sins on the cross, and to our acceptance of Him as our Lord and Savior.** White symbolizes holiness, forgiveness and spiritual cleansing. Isaiah 1:18 declares, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." Through Christ's sacrifice, we are washed clean, set free from guilt and made righteous before God.
- **The stripes of the candy cane connect back to the prophecy fulfilled by Jesus' death: through Him, we are healed.** The stripes are a powerful visual of Isaiah's prophecy: "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Every stripe tells the story of

redemption and divine restoration.

- **The shape of the candy cane symbolizes Jesus as our shepherd.** Just as a shepherd cares for, guides and protects his flock, Jesus leads and safeguards our lives. Psalm 23:1 reminds us, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” When we see the candy cane’s crook, we can remember that Christ is always watching over us, guiding us with love and care.
- **When you turn the candy cane upside-down, it is in the letter “J” for Jesus.** This subtle yet profound feature points directly to the heart of Christmas—the reason for the season. The letter “J” is a visual reminder of the Savior who came to redeem the world. John 3:16 affirms, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

This Christmas, as you hand out candy canes to family, friends or children, take a moment to share the story they represent. From the colors to the stripes to the shape itself, this small treat holds the greatest message of all: the love, sacrifice and salvation found in Jesus Christ.

Prepared by Charisma Media Staff.