

Say No to Halloween

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Halloween is celebrated by millions of people , including Christians, as a fun time for kids and the entire family.



Parents decorate their homes with lights, candles, Jack-O-Lanterns, skulls, skeletons, images of Witches and Ghosts. Others transform their homes into haunted houses and front yards into graveyards complete with tombstones and crosses.



Children dressed in frightening and horrifying costumes parade themselves around town. They go trick-or-treating screaming at the top of their lungs as they immerse in the festivity of the night.



Amidst the celebration, few people know what Halloween represents. To most, Halloween is presented as an innocent, harmless time of fun and adventure for the kids and the family.



As Christians, should you participate in Halloween?
Is it okay to go trick-or-treating, dress up in devilish costumes? If you do any of these, are you celebrating a Christian Holy Day or an evil day filled with pagan symbolisms?



What does God say about such a celebration? Does the Bible prohibit celebration of pagan festivals?



Halloween's Origin



First, a Christian must determine and understand the origin of Halloween, whether it is Christian or pagan in origin. The Bible has clear instructions and warnings against adopting pagan practices and worships. As God-loving Christians, we need to heed and abide by God's command.



Deuteronomy 12

29 The Lord your God will cut off before you the nations you are about to invade and dispossess. But when you have driven them out and settled in their land,

30 and after they have been destroyed before you, be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, “How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same.”



Deuteronomy 12

31 You must not worship the Lord your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

32 See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.



Halloween dates back to the Celts of ancient Ireland and Scotland around the time of Christ. On October 31, the Celts celebrated the end of summer and the beginning of a new year with thanksgiving to the sun god for the harvest.



This was important because it was when animal herders would move their animals into barns and pens and prepare to ride out the winter. This was also the time of the crop harvests. At the same time, with the onset of the winter solstice the day was held to honor the Samhain, the “lord of death”.



There was much superstition associated with this ancient pagan festival including the belief in ghosts and immortal souls. The Druids believed that the spirits of the dead within the past year wandered around looking for bodies to inhabit.



It was a pagan belief that on Halloween, the souls of the dead return to their original homes. Since the living did not want to be possessed by spirits or cast spells on, they dressed up in costumes and paraded around the streets making loud noises to confuse and frighten the spirits away.



Sacrifices and offerings of foods were made to the dead spirits who were thought to be visiting former friends and relatives. If they were satisfied with the offerings, they would leave you in peace. In modern day setting of Witchcraft and Occult, Samhain is known as the day when Satan himself comes to “fellowship” with his followers.



Christian Origin of Halloween



Around the 7th century, the Roman Catholic Church took over the Samhain celebration. The day that honored all the “hallowed” saints was first observed on the evening of May 13, and was known as the All Hallows Festival. Later, it was moved to November 1 to coincide with Samhain to become “All Hallows Eve” where all the saints of the Catholic church were honored.



From the Encyclopedia Britannica we read:

“In its strictly religious aspect, this occasion is known as the vigil of Hallowmas of All Saint’s Day, Nov. 1, observed by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. Pope Gregory III (731 to 741 AD) assigned this date for celebrating of the feast when he consecrated a chapel in Saint Peter’s basilica to all the saints. Gregory the IV extended the feast to the entire church (Roman Catholic 1*) in 834 AD” “There is little doubt that the Christian (Roman Catholic 1*) church sought to eliminate or supplant the Druid festival of the dead by introducing the alternative observance of All Saint’s Day on Nov. 1.”



Clearly Halloween and its practices are Roman Catholic and Pagan in origin. It is a mixture of old Celtic pagan rituals superstition and early Catholic traditions.



Without doubt the Roman Catholic Church appropriated and incorporated the Samhain customs and festival into the church doctrine to further its mission to convert the world to Catholicism.



Thus, making it easy for pagans to accept Christianity without forcing the pagans to drop their customs and practices. Instead of Christianizing the pagan world, Christianity got paganized.



Halloween Customs



The Jack-O-Lantern comes from an Irish folklore about a man named Jack who tricked the devil into climbing a tree. Once the devil was in the tree, Jack carved a cross on the trunk, preventing the devil from coming down. The devil then made a deal with Jack to not allow Jack into hell after Jack died if only Jack would remove the cross from the tree.



After Jack died, he couldn't go to hell, and he couldn't go to heaven. He was forced to wander around the earth with a single candle to light his way. The candle was placed in a turnip to keep it burning longer. When the Irish came to America in the 1800's, they adopted the pumpkin instead of the turnip.



The fearsome face of the jack-o-lantern was representative of the god of the dead, Samhain, who would drive off the spirit of the dead on Halloween. The jack-o-lantern is a Halloween idol that keeps alive an ancient symbol of demonic superstition.



Along with these traditions, they brought the idea that the black cat was considered by some to be reincarnated witches. The word “witch” comes from the Anglo-Saxon Wicca, or “wise one.” The black cat is the chief idol of the goddess of Wicca, Diana.



God's Word Condemns
such Pagan Practices



The Bible says much about the practices from which modern Halloween festivities are taken.



Deuteronomy 18

9 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there.

10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,



Deuteronomy 18

11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.

12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you.



The nation of Israel was specifically warned against the very same practices that are part of the modern Halloween. With the same scriptures, we too are forewarned today.



Isaiah 65

1 “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me;
I was found by those who did not seek me.
To a nation that did not call on my name,
I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’



Isaiah 65

2 All day long I have held out my hands
to an obstinate people,
who walk in ways not good,
pursuing their own imaginations—
3 a people who continually provoke me
to my very face,
offering sacrifices in gardens
and burning incense on altars of brick;



Isaiah 65

4 who sit among the graves
and spend their nights keeping secret vigil;
who eat the flesh of pigs,
and whose pots hold broth of impure meat;
5 who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me,
for I am too sacred for you!'
Such people are smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that keeps burning all day.



Isaiah 65

6 “See, it stands written before me:

I will not keep silent but will pay back in full;

I will pay it back into their laps—

7 both your sins and the sins of your ancestors,”
says the Lord.

“Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains
and defied me on the hills,

I will measure into their laps

the full payment for their former deeds.”



Isaiah 65:1-7 is a rebuke of the pagan precursor of the modern day Halloween and All Souls Day observance which God hates. Isaiah's forthright condemnation of the All Souls Day vigil is exactly what Christians do today, a direct affront to God.



Commands to Christ's Church



1.Be
separate
from evil



Christians are forbidden to fellowship with pagan idolatry or Belial/Satan. To celebrate Halloween is to fellowship with Samhain, the pagan “lord of death.”
Below, are three (3) direct admonitions of God:



2 Corinthians 6

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?



2 Corinthians 6

16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.”



2 Corinthians 6

17 Therefore,

“Come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you.”

18 And,

“I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”



Ephesians 5

11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.



1 Corinthians 10

14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?



1 Corinthians 10

17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

18 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?



1 Corinthians 10

19 Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?

20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.



1 Corinthians 10

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

22 Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?



2. Do not let
pagan
practices
lead you
astray



As Christians, we are called to live holy and godly lives. Christ warned the Pergamum church of Pagan-Christian practices (Paganized Christianity) in Revelation 2:14 when Christ warned the church about holding on to the teachings of Balaam. Mixing true Christianity with pagan practices will disqualify us from God's grace.



Revelation 2:14

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.



2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.



Ephesians 5

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

10 and find out what pleases the Lord.



Ephesians 5

11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.



Ephesians 5

14 This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”



Ephesians 5

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.



3. Resist the devil



Keeping the Halloween is inviting evil spirit into your home and into your being. Demon possession is not uncommon in people engaging in the occult.



Never give strange spirits occasion and opportunity to entice you into their fellowship. The Scripture cautions us to resist the devil and stand firm in the faith. Make no mistake it is a fearful thing to be under the influence of an evil spirit.



James 4

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.



James 4

9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.



1 Peter 5

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.



A Christian
Halloween is
blasphemy
against God



Exodus 20:7

“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.



To celebrate Halloween is a violation of the third commandment, which requires that the name and reputation of the LORD be honored and upheld. Further Jesus declares that to attribute the work of God to Satan is to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit.



Matthew 12

22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

23 All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"



Matthew 12

24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.



Matthew 12

26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.



Matthew 12

28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

29 “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.



Matthew 12

30 “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

31 And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.



Matthew 12

32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.



Summary



As followers of Christ, we should not and cannot participate in the revelry of pagan celebration. We do not entangle ourselves with unfruitful works of darkness and evil. We must spare ourselves and our children from these appearances of evil.



1 Peter 1

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.



1 Peter 1

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”



END

