

Should Christians Celebrate Halloween?

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- Wednesday – 31 October – known as Halloween
- You may have noticed houses decorated, things in the shops, supermarkets, adverts on TV – commercial event, opportunity for shops to make money.
- Featuring all sorts of unpleasant things like witches, ghosts, goblins, spiders – all the most horrible and scary things you can think of.
- Different food, movies, sweets and chocolate, and of course dressing up for Trick or Treat
- Many of these things – especially the scary films and the sweets are attractive to young people
- Emergency services and insurance companies dread it, as it is often a night of crime, violence and arson
- So – is it all just innocent fun?

History

Halloween has a complicated history and has evolved over time to what it is today - but Halloween has almost entirely pagan origins and was a festival of the dead.

In 7th century, the Pope created a so-called Christian alternative for 1 November, called All Saints Day, which honoured saints and martyrs.

The day before – All Hallows Eve – became popular, like Christmas Eve.

Eventually it became Halloween.

Lots of nations even today have Days of the Dead – big celebration in Mexico involving connecting with dead relatives.

Paganism – many false gods, nature-worshipping, worship things God has created – sun, moon, stars.

Overall theme of Halloween is death and the occult – evil spirits, witchcraft, magic e

Human nature has always been intrigued by these things.

A natural curiosity in things which are beyond this life – beyond what we can see.

It comes from our own inbuilt awareness that there is a God – life is not just physical – eating, drinking, sleeping, going to school – but there are spiritual things too – things we don't see.

Bible references

Scripture does not speak at all about Halloween, but it does give us some guiding principles on which we can make a decision as to whether Halloween is something we should celebrate or not.

Two spiritual realms:

1. **From God** – good – God's Holy Spirit
2. **Satan** – evil. The Prince of the power of the air – spiritual wickedness in high places, Christians are warned to watch out for Satan's methods! He is subtle, transforms himself as an angel of light, But, as the enemy of our souls, he is also murderous!

OT: Our Memory Work last year was from Deuteronomy. This book is about Moses' address to the Israelites before they were to go in to possess the Promised Land of Canaan.

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They were given clear instructions to destroy all traces of pagan idols and not have anything to do with them – they were distinct as God’s people, to be separate from the idol-worshippers which surrounded them.

Witchcraft was a crime punishable by death in the laws of Moses.

**Great principle for Christian people –
we are to be separate from this world.**

NT: The Book of Acts which talks about the early apostles spreading the Gospel, there are several instances involving people called sorcerers (those into wizardry, magic etc). Paul and others made it very clear that the occult and Christianity are completely different – they needed to repent and turn away from this sinful practice and worship the true and living God.

The answer to the question is – Emphatically no!

As Christians, we are to abstain from all appearance of evil and be separate to this world and its anti-God practices.

Another guiding principle for Christians to help us know how we should spend our time, what we should think about etc is Philippians 4v8.

What are we to make of it?

This theme of death however is ‘glamorised’- made light of, made into entertainment by movies and dressing up. Children are especially influenced and deceived as its all covered up by sweets, parties, movies and dressing up. Death is a terrible reality for all of us— not something to celebrate or treat as fun.

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Death is the opposite of what God is –
and it is the punishment for sin.

Death ruins lives, causes great sorrow and sadness, and brings with it awful illnesses.

As Christians, who love God –
we rejoice that God has sent a Saviour
to **conquer death** and forgive us
for all the sin we have committed
which means we escape our deserve death.

**Clearly Halloween is something we should seek
to avoid and stay away from.**

Christians are children of the day, children of light.

Remember death is what caused the Lord Jesus Christ to suffer and die a dreadful death on the cross.

Satan is using Halloween to draw people away from the light of God’s Word and doing so under ‘innocent’ ways like dressing up and sweets –

Don’t be deceived, these things are harmful!

This year’s Memory Work is Matthew 6v28-33

V33. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

31 October is significant for another reason - start of the Protestant Reformation.