

HALLOWEEN

Harmless or Hazardous?

"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NKJV)

Halloween is a very controversial subject to many.

Most Christians tend to avoid it... Yet they do not even seem to know why?

And some just go along with it and claim it is harmless. Is it?

Here are some very interesting facts about Halloween & it's Pagan background...Which may make you think twice about... Trick or Treat!

In ancient Britain & Ireland, the Celtic festival of Samhain was observed on October 31, the end of summer. November 1 was the new year for both Celtic and Anglo-Saxon calendars, and the date was connected with the return of herds from pasture and laws and land tenures being renewed. It was one of the most important, yet sinister calendar festivals of the Celtic Year.

THE CELTS

The first Aryan people who came from Asia to settle in Europe, were the Celts. Settling in northern France and the British Isles, the Celtic people engaged in occultic arts, worshipping nature and giving it supernatural, animistic qualities.

THE DRUIDS

Many of their beliefs and practices were similar to those of Hinduism, such as reincarnation and the transmigration of the soul-which teaches that people may be reborn as animals. The Druids believed that on October 31, the night before their New Year and the last day of the old year, Samhain, the Lord of Death, gathered the souls of the evil dead who had been condemned to enter the bodies of animals. It was believed that he would then decide what animal form they would take for the next year.

The Druids also believed that the punishment of the evil dead would be lightened by sacrifices, prayers and gifts to the Lord of Death. (This begins to reveal the strange link between this holiday and the 'Non-Biblical' concept of purgatory, etc.)

Druid worshipers attempted to appease the Lord of Death because of his power over the souls of the dead, whether these souls were good or evil. For those who had died during the preceding 12 months, Samhain allowed their spirits to return to earth to their former places of habitation for a few hours to associate once again with their families. It was on these occasions that ancient fire festivals would take place, with huge bonfires set on hilltops, to "frighten away evil spirits." The souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on this day, and the autumnal festival acquired a sinister significance, with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats, fairies, and demons of all kinds said to be roaming about. It was the time to placate the supernatural powers controlling the processes of nature.

ON THIS NIGHT...

...Evil or frustrated ghosts were supposed to play tricks on humans and to cause supernatural manifestations. As part of the celebration, people donned grotesque masks and danced around huge bonfires to scare away the evil spirits. Food was also put out to allow the good dead that Samhain had released to feel welcome and at home. Halloween was also thought to be the most favorable time for divinations concerning marriage, luck, health, and death. It was the only day on which the help of the devil could be invoked for such purposes. In early American history, Halloween was not practiced. It was not widely observed until the 20th century when it was introduced by the Irish Catholic settlements.

THE CATHOLIC TRADITIONS

In the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church attempted to oppose the paganism involved in the Samhain festival by making November 1, All Saints' Day, a day commemorating all the saints of the church. November 2, was later designated as All Souls' Day, which eventually became a special day to pray for the dead.

In the late 1800's, it was customary for English Catholics to assemble at midnight on Halloween to pray for the souls of their departed friends. In earlier times, people took special bread called "souls" to the cemeteries, placing it on the graves. The people ate these "soul cakes" because they were thought to be a powerful antidote against any flames of purgatory "that might be invoked by returning ghosts. At dusk the festival changed from All Saints' Day to All Souls' Eve. Lighted candles were placed on graves and in windows to guide the dead back home."

THE REFORMATION

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther drove a stake into the heart of many of the prevailing non-Biblical concepts by nailing his famous 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Witten-berg, Germany, starting the movement known today as the Reformation....Appropriately, he did this on Halloween!

In medieval England, the Halloween festival was known as All Hallows' Eve. Since it was associated with prayers for those in purgatory, the feast was abolished in the Church of England after the Reformation but has since been revived in Anglo-Catholic churches.

MODERN TRADITIONS

Gradually, Halloween became a secular observance, and many customs and practices developed. The carved pumpkin may have originated with the witches' use of a skull with a candle inside to light the way to coven meetings. Going from door to door seeking treats may hail back to the Druid practice of begging material for the great bonfires.

THE TRICK

...custom of Halloween appears to be derived from the idea that ghosts and witches created mischief on the living if they did not provide the "treats." (It became obvious to some people that a sense of humor could be camouflaged by blaming practical jokes on the ghosts or witches roaming about.)

THE OCCULT

Halloween is, for many, a "crossover" involvement in which innocent games can lead to serious entanglement with real witches, neo-pagans, New Agers, and other occultists. A common pastime is the use of a Ouija board to attempt to contact ghosts or spirits that are believed to be roaming about. This can lead to serious consequences, including demon possession. Dungeons and Dragons apparently also can lead to similar consequences. These are called "entries."

The English word "occult" comes from the Latin occultus, meaning "to cover up, hide, or conceal." Its purpose is to deceive. It is not simply a philosophy or pastime. It is the domain of extremely powerful, sentient, hostile superbeings who have a vigorous agenda to destroy you... Personally!!!!

THE GOOD OLD USA

The United States may harbor the fastest growing and most highly organized body of Satanists and occultists in the world. A recent University of Chicago national poll revealed that 67% of Americans "now profess a belief in the supernatural," and that 42% "believe they have been in contact with someone who died." Check any secular bookstore and, by comparing the allocation of productive shelf space, it is obvious that the occult and New Age materials are bigger than any other religious interest.

FORMS OF THE OCCULT MAY INCLUDE:

Mediums, Channelers, Clairvoyants, Psychics, Spiritists, Diviners, Mystics, Gurus, Shamans, Yogis, Psychic and Holistic Healers, Astral Travel, Astrology, Mysticism, Ouija boards, Tarot cards, Contact with the Dead, UFO's, and thousands of other practices.

OCCULTISM INCLUDES:

Satanism, Astrology, Kabbalah, Gnosticism, Theosophy, Witchcraft and many forms of serious magic. It includes activities seeking the acquisition of "hidden" things-which are EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN BY GOD IN THE BIBLE!

DEMONS

have a vested interest in Halloween because it supports the occult and also offers novel and unexpected opportunities to control or influence people. Necromancy is also expressly forbidden in Scripture modern rationalizations are attempts to discredit the Biblical view. The enforced paganism in federally supported schools is frightening.

WITCHCRAFT

Witchcraft is the most common theme of Halloween, You can hardly keep up with the amount of TV shows & movies lately with "Witchcraft" as their theme. They portray witchcraft as being 'Harmless & Fun' it is always evil!

Revisionist history continues to cast the witch and neo-pagan communities as those who would help both mankind and planet Earth itself. "White" witchcraft is an attempt to promote an alleged difference from "black" that is no more than an alluring deception.

BIBLICAL VIEW

Halloween practices open the door to the occult and can introduce forces into people's lives that they are not equipped to combat. There is genuine power in the occult, but it is demonic power. Any serious study of Biblical demonology will reveal Satan as the power behind false religion, witchcraft, idolatry and the occult. The Word of God makes it clear that these are all to be shunned as dangerous. There were many superstitions and false concepts in ancient Israel about which the Bible is silent. However, occultism, in any form, was punishable by death! Why? The spiritual power and reality behind idols involves demons.

The Bible commands us to shun occult practices. Mediums and Spiritists are expressly prohibited. Nowhere are such practices acceptable!!!

If you think Halloween is harmless
The Trick is on You!

<http://www.culttruth.com/Halloween/>

The Tract League
Web site: <http://tractleague.com/>

Some additional thought from the booklet:

“The Facts on Halloween – What Christians Need to Know” By John Ankerberg & John Weldon (p. 24)

Here are some things to consider concerning whether your children should participate in Halloween.

1. It is the most sacred day of witchcraft and other occultism.
2. It was and is believed to be the only day which the devil’s help could especially be invoked for a variety of things; it remains a special day to Satanists.
3. Human and is offered (perhaps most commonly) on this day.
4. It has and will continue to encourage occult activity on the part of both children and adults.
5. It is a special day to call on spirits via Ouija board and other forms of spiritism.
6. It is a day noted historically for divination.
7. It helps support pagan philosophies and practices such as Reincarnation, Animism, Shamanism, Druidism.
8. It is of help to the practices and beliefs of mediums and psychical researchers by encouraging people’s in things like ghosts and poltergeists.
9. Occultists use this day especially for proselytization concerning their professions and activities.
10. It can unequally yoke Christians and pagans
11. Probably no Halloween activity or symbol can be found that does not go back to pagan occultism.
12. Christian’s participation in Halloween, may in fact be a ploy of the devil to mock God.
13. “Whatever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23)

It is our opinion that for a “True Bible Believing Christian” to celebrate Halloween is a sad and costly compromise.

'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:31 NKJV)

'And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. 'Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 20:6-7 NKJV)

"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12 NKJV)

And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. (Isaiah 8:19-20 NKJV)

Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. (2 Kings 21:6 NKJV)

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. (Romans 12:9 NKJV)
Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV)

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18 NKJV)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJV)