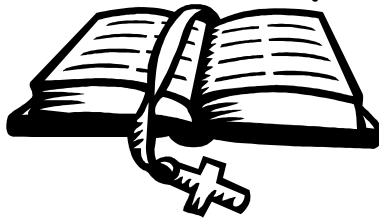


What Does The Bible Say About Halloween?



Going out on Halloween seems like a lot of fun. Since everyone else in the world is doing it, it must be ok. Right?

Wrong!

We are not supposed to do things just because the world is.

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,
but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
-Romans 12:2 (NLT)*

Did you know that Halloween is a dangerous ritual based on a pagan belief in channeling spirits of the dead. A ritual is a ceremony held to please a god. But Halloween is not a ceremony for our God, but to other spirits.

This sinful tradition has been around for over 2,000 years.

As Christians, we can not afford to be fooled like the rest of the world into believing that things we do don't have penalties in the unseen spiritual world.

God reminds us that:

*We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies,
but ... against evil spirits in the heavenly places. -Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)*

But, one of the biggest tricks that the devil is trying to pull today is getting us to think he is not our enemy. Even Christians have started thinking that dressing up as monsters or even Satan himself is no big deal.

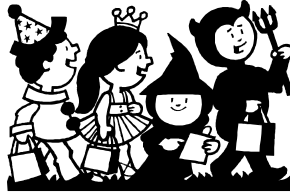
Whether we realize it or not, when we participate in Halloween, we unknowingly give glory to two of the devil's greatest weapons against us - death and fear.

Let's Talk About This:

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God say about us copying the world's behavior?
2. What is something else that is done in the world that we, as Christians, should not do?
3. What is a ritual?
4. Is it okay to dress up like monsters or Satan? Why or why not?

Is Halloween Really That Bad??



Halloween is based on a ritual started by people known as the Celts. The Celts lived in what we would now call Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France 2000 years ago.

These people were pagans. That means that they did not worship Jesus or God the Father, but worshipped many other spirits.

As Christians, we know that any spirits that try to steal glory from God and draw people to worship them instead are not from God. The Bible tells us that there really are evil spirits in the world that we live in.

There is no need for you to be afraid of these spirits though. God said that He lives in you. He is greater than those evil spirits and will help you fight them (1 John 4:4).

But, He says you should be fighting them, not celebrating them or throwing parties in their honor. When we celebrate Halloween, that is exactly what we are doing.

People started doing this because of the Celtic people's non-biblical beliefs.

They were mostly farmers and the cold months often brought death to their crops, animals and people. They began to think of winter time as a time of great death.

November 1st was the Celtic New Year because it was the beginning of this dark cold time. They called October 31st, the day that we now celebrate as Halloween, Samhain.

They believed, as those who practice witchcraft today still do, that October 31st was a special spiritual day. They said that it was the day that the world of the dead and the world of the living could mix together.

This was important to them because they did not worship and depend on our all powerful God. They depended on these demonic spirits to be their source of wisdom for how to survive the cold winter.

So, they invited the spirits of their dead family members to come and join them in a huge ritual. This is why so many of the things related to Halloween are related to death. We see skulls and skeletons everywhere this time of year. It is a time where people actually worship and celebrate anything related to death and fear.

But Jesus said that

*The thief's (Satan's) purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.
My (Jesus') purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life-John 10:10 (NLT)*

H A L L O W E E N D I E S E V E N



On October 31st, there was a huge feast where sacrifices were made to these spirits. The pagans would attempt to actually cross over into the land of the dead during this dangerous ritual.

God warns us:

*Do not defile yourselves by turning to mediums or to those who consult the spirits of the dead.
I am the Lord your God.- Leviticus 19:31*

But, their priests tried to contact these spirits in order to participate in things that that God hates - sorcery and fortune telling.

Just like in today's culture, people dressed up in costumes in celebration of these spirits. Men dressed as women. Women dressed as men. And many used the heads and skins of animals as their costumes for the ritual.

Leading up to the event, there was always much mischief. Neighbors pulled pranks on one another, much like we see on what is known around America as "Hell Night."

Let's Talk About This:

Discussion Questions:

1. What things did the Celts do to celebrate the demonic spirits?
2. Do you think God wants His children to celebrate demons by dressing up and throwing parties in their honor?
3. Why are so many of the things that we see around Halloween time related to death?
4. Who wants us to have death? But, what does Jesus want? Then what should we celebrate?

How Did Halloween Get to Us?



Throughout history, many cultures mixed together. For instance, around 43 AD, most of the land that used to belong to the Celtic people had transferred to the Romans.

The Romans joined the Celtic Samhain ritual on October 31st with a day that they had honored one of their pagan gods named Pomona. The symbol of Pomona was apples. The Halloween tradition to go bobbing for apples is actually in honor of this pagan god.

Several hundred years later, Christianity finally arrived in the Celtic lands. Unfortunately, the pagan ritual of contacting spirits on October 31st was already a huge tradition.

At this time, there was a Christian holiday called All-Hallows Day. This Christian Holiday honored all of the saints in heaven, both known and unknown. It was originally February 21, but eventually was changed to November 1st to line up with the pagan Samhain ritual that was on October 31st.

Many people believe the church did this to replace Samhain with a Christian celebration for the new Christians. It may have been the church's goal to offer a substitute for the rituals and sacrifices the people were used to.

Unfortunately, once All-Hallows Day moved to November 1st, Samhain did not disappear. It became known as All-Hallows Eve because it was the eve of All-Hallows Day. After over 2000 years, this ritual is now called Halloween.

Even if you do not dress in a scary costume, you are participating in a celebration that was made to honor demon spirits as gods. Remember:

You must not worship any of the gods of neighboring nations, for the Lord your God, who lives among you, is a jealous God- Deuteronomy 6:14, 15 (NLT)

Many Christians today still have not given up the demonic practice of celebrating death and evil spirits on Halloween. They think that it's ok because so many other people are doing it.

Participating in Halloween may seem fun. But, there is nothing fun about playing on Satan's playground. It does not matter how many other people are playing there with you.

Let's Talk About This:

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do people bob for apples on Halloween?
2. Why do you think so many Christians still celebrate Halloween even though it's demonic?
3. Is it okay to go out on Halloween if you do not dress in a scary costume?
4. How do you think it makes God feel to see Christians celebrating Halloween?
5. Any other questions?