

# HALLOWEEN

To Be, or Not To Be?

Examining Today's Issues in Light of Scriptures

# HALLOWEEN: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

For years, Halloween has been an issue in Christian circles, from the pulpit to the door.

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## THE ISSUE

For years, it has been considered harmless fun. To be or not to be? When did it start? Many are now questioning its history, nature, influence, and fruit. The revitalization of Satanism and witchcraft and their obvious association with Halloween has caused a division among Christians and non-Christians alike, wondering if they should participate in it at all.

There is no denying the nature of Halloween decor. Monsters, ghosts, devils, ghouls, vampires, and witches are not in Christian character. Many Christians defend their participation in this holiday, asserting their liberty in Christ. Many churches see Halloween and any part of it as evil and choose not to have anything to do with it. Others find no fault and participate fully, with costume parties, trick-or-treating, and Halloween decorations. Some have a middle-of-the-road attitude, allowing “trick” or “treat” and dressing as Bible characters instead of demonic and occult characters. To be or not to be? The facts we shall present should help you answer that long-asked question, once and for all.

History traces Halloween back to the ancient religion of the Druids, a religion so evil that Rome forbade its practice. The *American Peoples Encyclopedia* explains: “The origin of Halloween customs antedates Christianity. The Druids, members of pagan orders in Britain, Ireland, and Gaul, held a celebration on October 31, the eve of the Festival of Samhain. It was a night of ghosts and fairies in which bonfires were built, futures were foretold, and witches rode through the sky.” Superstitions linking cats with reincarnation made them special objects of notice on Halloween. Unquestionably, the holiday had its origin with the pagan Druids, who called it the “Festival of Samhain—The Lord of the Dead.” Samhain was a demon who was given special homage on Halloween. This is where the emphasis on death comes from on that night. Death symbols such as coffins, tombstones, skeletons, skulls and crossbones, ghosts, mummies, and graveyards are common Halloween decorations.

There are many legends about the holiday, but two significant things supposedly occurred on that night: It is believed that the dead would rise out of their graves and wander the countryside, trying to return to their formerly owned homes. Frightened villagers appeased the wandering spirits by offering them gifts of fruits and nuts, in fear of the spirits destroying their property or killing their flocks—thus the origin of our present-day “trick or treat.” Samhain was the supreme night of demonic jubilation. The hordes of hell would roam the earth in a wild celebration of the beginning of winter, darkness, and death, all in honor of Samhain! Pity the poor mortal forced to travel on such a night! The only thing the superstitious people knew to do to protect themselves was to masquerade as one of the demonic horde and hopefully blend in unnoticed among them—thus the origin of Halloween masquerading as devils, imps, ogres, and other demonic creatures.

**The question is to be or not to be? Should Christians adopt such practices? Can we borrow pagan customs and superstitions of ancient peoples and “Christianize” them?**



## AT A GLANCE

- Occult character
- Origins in Druid Festival of Samhain, The “lord” of the Dead
- Demonic creatures represented
- Darkness lifted above Light
- Spirit of Fear celebrated



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## CONTINUING:

The Bible is not silent on the subject: "Learn not the way of the heathen, for the customs of the people are vain" (Jeremiah 10:2-3) and "when thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations" (Deuteronomy 18:9).

Ephesians 5:11 declares, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

II Corinthians 6:14 reads, "For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Wherefore come out from among them and be separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing."

To be or not to be? What should our position be? Clearly, we should have nothing to do with the Halloween celebration whatsoever. If Christians assemble on Halloween, it should be to worship, sing praise, pray, intercede, wage spiritual warfare, and pull down demonic strongholds.

The Christian should not fear Halloween or any of the powers of darkness, for we have authority over them (Mark 16:17; Luke 10:19), and "God has not given us the spirit of fear."

It is the disobedience of God! He repeatedly forbids His children to participate in such demonic activities, as the passages in the right hand column on this page attest.

A careful examination of these Scriptures reveal God's unreserved condemnation of all those who participate in any occult activity.

Halloween, destruction, vandalism, and wanton disregard for the property of others are common on Halloween night. Even normally well-behaved children are driven by unseen forces to destructive behavior. Police officials everywhere report great increases in such activities at Halloween. Worse yet are the horrifying accounts of poisoned candy and fruits booby-trapped with razor blades and needles. Such threats are so real that many hospitals offer free x-rays on Halloween treats in order to prevent children from being harmed. Who but Satan could inspire such monstrous actions?

Witches and witchcraft are a dominant theme on the holiday but are an abomination to God (Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:8-14; Lev. 18:24-30).

**Even the trick-or-treat is a threat if nothing less than extortion. You either give me a treat, or I'll play a trick on you. Halloween to be or not to be? NOT TO BE.**



## SCRIPTURES TO EXAMINE:

- Deut. 18:9-14
- Exodus 7:11-12,22
- Lev. 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27
- I Chron. 10:13-14
- II Kings 21:5-6
- Jeremiah 27:9-10
- Galatians 5:16-21
- II Tim. 3:8
- Revelation 21:8, 22:15
- Zech. 10:2
- Malachi 3:5
- Acts 8:9, 16:16, 19:19



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