



Halloween - Trick or Treat?

Different Christian quotes :-

(Q1)“ Halloween is the most dangerous day of the year – when Satanists and witches snatch children off the streets and sacrifice them in Satan’s name!”

(Q2) “ We don’t worship other God’s or honour the dead on Halloween. Halloween is nothing but a secular time of fun and games – an excuse for kids to dress up and overload on sugar.”

(Q3) “ I love to see the children, out in the neighbourhood with their parents, dressed in funny clothes, having a wonderful time……. And mocking the devil!”

Discuss – What do you think of Halloween?

Have you let your children celebrate Halloween?

Do you think any harm can come to kids just by them dressing up and asking for candy?

History –

Halloween traces its roots back to the Celts - The Celts worshipped ancient Gods (over 300 hundred of them) (*Many Christians believe these Gods were demons.*) The Celts were very conscious of the Spiritual world and how it interacted with the physical! Celtic Priests are called Druids.

One of their main festivals is called “*Samhain*” November 1st was the Celtic new year. They believed, at this time of the year, that the space between the spiritual and physical world became very thin. As a result of this ghosts, the spirits of the dead and evil supernatural forces were free to wander the earth. This festival was called the festival of the dead.

To protect themselves from the spirits of the dead and to pacify the Lord of the dead – druids would offer different forms of sacrifices, animals and also including human ones. This only stopped being wide spread in 1600A.D. only four hundred years ago. (However in parts of the country today sacrifices are still made!!)

Another way that you could protect yourself from evil spirits entering your home was to offer food and banquets to them. ***Frightened villagers would offer fruits and nuts to appease the wandering evil spirits and to stop them possessing their homes.*** This is the origin of our present day trick or treat. (Today Children dress up as ghosts, witches, ghouls and knock on doors to be given treats.) If you did not satisfy the spirit fully, people believed that the spirit would destroy property and even possess and kill loved ones. (today kids play practical jokes)

A final way of protecting yourself was to frighten away the evil spirit. People would masquerade as one of the demonic hoard, and hopefully blend in with them or frighten them away, but something more evil than itself being present. This is where dressing up in scary clothes like devils, imps, ogres, and other demonic creatures, and the painting of faces come from. Alongside of these demons faces were carved in turnips initially and then into pumpkins again to frighten the spirits of the dead.

In the 7th century Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints Day to try and replace the Pagan festival of the Dead. This became for the Christians an opportunity to remember all the Saints of the church and give thanks to them before God.

Later on witches, warlocks and the occult religions adopted Halloween “*Samhain*” as their main festival in their celebration of Satan (Luther). Throughout this country Halloween is a time where occult covens meet and sacrifice animals, children, (around 3000 babies killed each year in occultic practices this is quoted by the Revd Kathe Bowe who is a Methodist minister and a consultation board for the national police force dealing with Satanic and ritualistic abuse and crimes.) They engage in various deplorable acts (like blood drinking and sexual abuse of children orgies.) As part of this they contact the spirits of the dead, evil spirits and cast spells over their enemies (which are seen as Christians and the church – this is documented in many books written by ex witches who have become Christians.)

As a result of the widespread acceptance of Halloween as a festival there is an increased interest in the occult at this time of the year. For example teenage magazines have given free spell casting / contacting the spirits equipment away on the front of their magazines. (things like packs of tarot cards, oughe boards, peddling swinging equipment, books of spells used by the occult.) Even some schools celebrate Halloween as a full religious festival like for example Christmas.

Discuss – Is Halloween just another innocent holiday that doesn’t harm anyone?

Can you separate the origins of a festival from the way we celebrate it?

Bible Verses to look at (read and discuss) :- Deuteronomy Ch 18 v 10 – 14, Leviticus Ch 19 v 31, Acts Ch 19 v 18 – 20, Galatians Ch 5 v 19 – 21, Revelation Ch 22 v 15, 1 Corinthians Ch 10 v 20, Romans Ch 12 v 2, 1 Thessalonians Ch 5 v 21 – 22, Ephesians Ch 5 v 11

Discuss – Do you think Halloween can have an influence on Children? If so what? If not why not?

what do you think a Christian response should be to Halloween?

Do you think we should give our kids an alternative to Halloween? If so what?

“Finally Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think (*meditate) on such things!! Philippians Ch 4 v 8