

## Facts About Halloween

'Do not turn to those who are mediums nor to wizards. Do not seek them out only to be defiled by them ... neither will you use enchantments or practice sorcery ... You will not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead or tattoo any marks on yourself ... A man or a woman who is a medium or is a wizard will surely be put to death ... their own blood will be upon them' (Leviticus 19:26, 28 & 31; 20:27). 'You are the children of your God. You will not cut yourselves nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead' (Deuteronomy 14:1). 'There will not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire (as a human sacrifice), one who uses divination (seeks the future), one who practices sorcery (witchcraft), or an enchanter (one who conjures up evil spirits), or a sorcerer (witch or warlock), or a snake charmer, or a consulter (horoscope writer or reader) with a familiar spirit (mediums, séances or ouija board), or a wizard or a necromancer (an illusionist, a magician or someone who tries to predict the future by falsely claiming to communicate with the dead). Whoever does these things is an abomination to God ... Pagan nations ... listen to those who practice sorcery and to diviners but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so' (Deuteronomy 18:10 to 14). 'God will destroy witchcraft from your hand and you will have no soothsayers (someone who tries to predict the future)' (Micah 5:12).

The Lord strictly forbids any of His believers, Jewish people or Christians to take part in any demonic spiritual activities and that includes Halloween or any form of the occult, witchcraft, ancestor worship or offering anything for the dead. We are not to consult mediums, horoscopes or any other form of seeking the future. Magic acts and illusionists are also forbidden, such as one might see in a circus or during Halloween. No person who claims to be Godly should ever take part in Halloween, which is a combination of two ancient pagan celebrations. The initial celebration was held by Druids in ancient Britain, Scotland and Ireland called the Celtic festival of Samhain, pronounced 'sow-eeen'. It was observed on 31st October at the end of summer, the beginning of autumn/winter and the end of their yearly harvest. This date was also the eve of the New Year in both Celtic and Anglo-Saxon times and was the occasion for one of the ancient fire festivals when huge bonfires were set on hilltops to supposedly frighten away evil spirits. The Celtic Druids believed the curtain dividing the living and the dead lifted allowing souls of the dead to roam around at night and since not all spirits were deemed to be friendly, gifts, treats and chants were given to the dead to placate the evil ones and to make sure the crops would be plentiful. The ancient Druids held their celebrations according to the seasons. The date was connected with the return of herds from pasture. As winter approached they harvested the crops and life slowed down as the long winter nights and short cold days increased. The ground either froze or became fallow. The souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on this day and the autumn festival acquired sinister significance with superstitions, ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats, fairies and evil spirits of all kinds were said to be roaming about. It was the date they tried to placate the supernatural powers controlling the processes of nature. It was the only day on which the help of the devil was invoked for such purposes. In addition, Samhain was thought to be the most favourable time for divinations (seeking the future) concerning marriage, luck, health and death. In Scotland young people assembled for games to ascertain which of them would marry during the year and in what order the marriages would occur. Bobbing for apples in water is an attempt to foresee the future of betrothed couples. The occult, attempting to speak with the dead and seeking the future was practiced as people tried to communicate with their dead ancestors. All of these pagan rituals fuelled superstitions and fears. They tried to ward off evil spirits by wearing costumes or placing a candle inside a gourd, pumpkin or turnip called a 'Jack O Lantern'. The Bible calls these superstitions and false beliefs, 'Evil suspicions' (1 Timothy 6:4).

The second pagan and so-called 'Christian' celebration is All Hallows' Evening (October 31st), All Saint's Day (November 1st) or All Soul's Day (November 2nd) held by the Catholic Church as a holiday to pay homage to their dead saints and martyrs (strictly forbidden by God). Originally spelt Hallow-e'en, it was a contraction of 'All Hallow Evening'. The Druid's pagan observances influenced the Catholic festival of All Hallows' Evening. The lighting of bonfires changed during the Medieval Period from an attempt to scare away evil spirits to then symbolising the plight of deceased Catholics lost in purgatory, which is actually non-existent. So-called 'souling' consisted of people going door to door offering prayers for the dead in exchange for treats called 'soul cakes', now called trick-or-treating. Praying for, or doing anything for dead people is not Scriptural and is offensive to the Lord. As Catholicism moved through Europe it collided with pagan cultures and long-held established customs. Europeans were deeply entrenched with their paganism so new converts to Catholicism found the church's beliefs a stumbling block. To deal with this problem, the church simply incorporated the ancient paganism into the church instead of standing up for righteousness and halting the pagan's beliefs by using the Word of God. The church accepted the pagan celebration and made it a 'Christian' holiday. In the ninth century Pope Gregory moved the Catholic 'All Saint's day' to coincide with

Sambain. The intent was to counter pagan rituals and provide a 'Christian' alternative but that only succeeded in combining Catholicism with paganism. There is nothing Christian or Godly about Halloween.

In Medieval English, all hallow meant all holy, sanctified, consecrated, set apart or sacred for God. This word once meaning holy has been forever tainted because it has been used in association with the demonic activity of Halloween. Skeletons, skulls, eerie lights and the colour black are all prominent in Halloween. A common symbol of Halloween is the Jack-o'-Lantern. It is a hollowed out gourd carved in the appearance of an evil face with a lighted candle fixed inside. In Scotland a large turnip was used but in the US the pumpkin was substituted. The name 'Jack-O-Lantern' is British and dates back to the 1700's. It means 'man with a lantern' or night watchman. It was associated with 'will o the wisp', 'fool's fire' or more appropriately ignis fatuus (phosphorescent lights), which are flickering lights seen over wetlands or peat marshes caused by spontaneous combustion of flammable marsh gases (phosphuretted hydrogen) derived from decaying organic matter, but superstitious people claim the lights are caused by fairies or goblins. Another pagan ritual associated with Halloween is 'mumming' or the wearing of dreadful masks or costumes, chanting, making mischief or play-acting. Irish immigrants took Halloween to the Americas about the mid-1800's and as we know, America has made a big issue of Halloween. Back in the UK where it all began, Halloween greatly diminished then after Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up Parliament on November 5th 1605, the British youth of the day revamped Halloween. The reason for the bonfire was changed a second time to commemorate Guy Fawkes. The young men would beg for pennies for 'the Guy' (who had been executed). America had no idea who Guy Fawkes was and no young American would beg for pennies for 'the Guy' whom they did not know so the pennies were exchanged for candies. Somehow, this evil pagan celebration has achieved a permanent day in the American calendar. Sadly and possibly due to its evil connotations, there are more murders, violent crimes and vandalism in America during these three days than the average for the rest of the year. Most people celebrate Halloween without knowing its origin or its evil content, believing it is just harmless fun. Playing with the demonic realm is never harmless! If you open yourself up to evil, you could well be devoured by the evil one. 'Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour' (1 Peter 5:8).

Gradually, people ignored the religious origins and Halloween became a secular observance. Many new customs and practices developed. Halloween is a pagan holiday combining vestiges of traditional harvest celebrations with customs more distinctive to the festival such as costumes, masks, trick-or-treating, evil pranks and macabre decorations based on ghoulish imagery, the occult, death and demonic. Halloween customs have become games played by children (trick-or-treating) but due to the dangers for unsupervised children such as kidnappings or sexual assault, adults now participate. The two demonic festivals have combined to make one utterly evil celebration. Halloween is truly wicked. All of these things are an abomination to the Lord our God. Today the festival is an excuse for commercialism and excess. Retailers and manufacturers make millions of dollars selling the wicked merchandise that goes with Halloween. Whatever day it is celebrated, it is despicably evil in content and no God fearing believer can participate with a clear conscience when we fully understand these things deeply offend the Lord. 'We must always practice having a conscience void of offence toward God and men' (Acts 24:16).

Into this spiritually dark pagan world, the Lord shone the Light of the Gospel. Eventually, many genuine Christians woke up to the error of the Catholic Church and put aside Halloween. They no longer feared the sinister evil world but armed themselves with the truth of the Bible. 'Greater is He (God) Who is in you than he (the devil) that is in the world' (1 John 4:4). 'Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers. He made a public spectacle of them openly, triumphing over them on the cross' (Colossians 2:15). 'God has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God' (Isaiah 52:10). Christians should never, ever take any part in Halloween nor its rituals and Christian parents should never allow their children to walk into clutches of the devil by letting them take part in trick-or-treating or anything to do with Halloween. Secular Halloween parties are sinister breeding grounds for evil to thrive and usually bring trouble. Christians should be enlightened by the Word of God and should not hold superstitions or unclean pagan beliefs. 'The blood of Jesus, Who through the eternal Holy Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, will cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God' (Hebrews 9:14).

The Bible warns, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? What fellowship has light with darkness? What agreement has Jesus with Belial (the devil)? What portion has a believer with an unbeliever? What agreement has a temple of God with idols? You are a temple of the living God. As God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God, and they will be My people. Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no

unclean thing and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:14 to 17). 'Depart you, depart you. You go out from there. Touch no unclean thing. Go out of the midst of sin and cleanse yourselves' (Isaiah 52:11). 'Do not follow cunningly devised fables when you know the power and coming of our Lord Jesus ... We have the more sure Word of prophecy and you do well to heed it as a lamp shining in a dark place until the day (realisation) dawns and the Morning Star arises in your hearts' (2 Peter 1:16 & 19). These verses are the Lord saying, "Wake up to yourselves Christians, you know the power of God and the risen Lord Jesus so do not embrace sin! Come out of it. You ought to know better than to believe such nonsense!" All Christians need to set a Godly example to the world and be the shining lights God requires us to be in this spiritually dark world.

Christians need to respond to the unsaved people participating in Halloween with Godly compassion. If it were not for the grace of God, we would all be lost! The unbelieving, God-rejecting world already lives in perpetual fear, the uncertainty of life, the fear of death, the terrifying expectation of judgement and eternal damnation (Hebrews 10:27). The expectation of God's wrath unleashed on the unforgiven is truly terrifying. Christians can use Halloween to jog the conscience of the unsaved and try to lead them to salvation. We need to reveal to them the Scriptural truth regarding God, the Bible, sin, the death of Jesus on the cross, future judgement and the only hope of eternal life in Jesus for the repentant sinner. When Christians refuse to participate in Halloween, unsaved people take notice, which provides opportunities for discussion. We need to help our children understand they may face ridicule from schoolmates and teachers when they do not take part. Some churches use Halloween to take gift baskets, food hampers or clothing along with the Gospel to needy families. Unsaved people need to see and hear how their lives can be transformed by the power of God through the blood of Jesus and by faith. They need to know they can be forgiven. Feelings of guilt and shame can be debilitating so to know their guilt and shame has been nailed to Jesus' cross can bring enormous relief. We need to avoid gimmicks which are unfitting for God's ambassadors and show God's love to the unsaved world. All Christians must keep themselves clean from sin while showing mercy to the lost. The Gospel is a holy message of mercy and grace, completely set apart from the world in which we live. We are in this world but not of it (John 17:16). 'When the kindness of God our Saviour and His love toward mankind appeared, it was not by our works of righteousness but according to His mercy. He saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus our Saviour so being justified by His grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life' (Titus 3:4 to 7).

Amen and God bless you.

[www.bibleabookoftruth.com](http://www.bibleabookoftruth.com)