

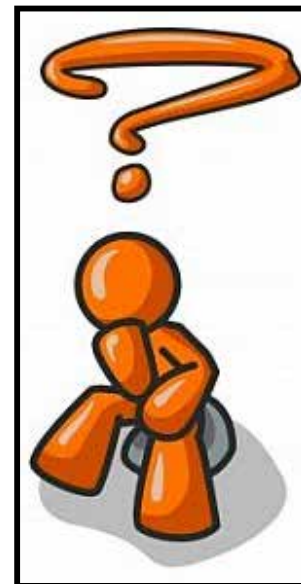
What About ... Halloween?

BY STEVE SEBASTIAN

In one form or another, Halloween is celebrated in many countries every year. Also, in those countries, Christians participate in the Halloween celebration. My aim here is to simply point out some of the obvious aspects associated with Halloween and to encourage Christians to have an answer as to why they choose to participate, enable others to participate, or reject participating in Halloween. I am not dealing with the origin of Halloween but only how it is understood today.

The Theme of Halloween

One simple theme ties together Halloween around the world—death and the souls of the dead. For some reason, human societies feel the need to celebrate the dead, and nearly every country and culture on the planet has a death-themed celebration. Death is the theme of Halloween, and trick or treating is its public ritual.



The Celebration of Halloween

It's reasonable to assume that most Americans either actively or passively celebrate Halloween with no religious, patriotic, or other defined reason. It is simply "fun." But does it really make sense to celebrate an undefined celebration? That sounds like a contradiction in terms.

Celebrate (verb): to observe (a day) or commemorate (an event) with ceremonies or festivities: to celebrate Christmas; to celebrate the success of a new play.

[Dictionary.com]

So if Halloween is a celebration, it must mean something in order to be celebrated. What is the specific meaning of Halloween to Christians who celebrate it? My guess is that they purposefully overlook the occult imagery in order to enjoy participating. One might reason that if they do not personally attach evil intent then they are not actually taking part in a pagan ritual, only harmless fun. Regardless, Halloween is unmistakably a pagan ritual. Each participant engages in the same elements, in the same way, and on the same night. Try dressing up in a disguise and knocking on your neighbors' door asking for candy on August 12 or May 9.

Why do most Christians take offense when the secular world wants to change "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holidays"? Christians rightly argue that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christianity, in essence, hosts Christmas. It's our celebration. The secular world can choose to join our celebration, but they do not have the right to undefine or redefine it.

Christians who celebrate Halloween, regardless of how innocently, are participating in a structured pagan ritual

that celebrates the dead. This is how the occultist describes it, and we cannot undefine or redefine it. It is their celebration, and their occult imagery is at the heart of the celebration. Death, darkness, witchcraft, demons, etc. are inseparable from Halloween because these are representations of occultism. The occultist is comfortable with these images.

Here is a quote from the Church of Satan's website by High Priestess Barton:

Halloween is traditionally a time when the obscure portal into the realms of darkness, death and the supernatural is thrown open. Demons and spirits have free reign for one night, cavorting, enticing us into their revels and revealing glimpses into the future.

Christ Conquered Death

In the Bible, death is not to be celebrated. Death is our enemy and is the result of sin, as Paul explains in Romans 5:12,

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned (see also 1 Corinthians 15:22, 26).

The only thing about death worth celebrating is Christ's victory over it.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death (Romans 8:2).

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Christ has defeated death, and His resurrection promises to deliver us from its grip. The grave has no power over us.

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life (John 5:24; see also 2 Timothy 1:10).

For the occultist, Halloween represents a rejection of Christ and eternal life for the pleasures of sin and rebellion. The occult celebrates Halloween with a clear understanding that death is the eternal fate of those who would live for the pleasures of sin and rebellion against God. Yet, they not only celebrate death, they entice children and families to join them through the trappings of Halloween.

...and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them (Romans 1:32).

Eternal Life —

The Goal of the Followers of Christ

By identifying ourselves as followers of Christ, we are saying to the world that we reject the

verdict of eternal death, on the basis of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Life, not death, is the ultimate goal which God intends for those who love and serve Him.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:1-5).

Conclusion

Since Halloween is an occult celebration of death, Christians need to have an answer as to why they choose to participate, enable others to participate, or reject participating in Halloween.