



Are These Churches Guided By Principles from the Bible?

The Bible does not say anything directly about Halloween. But it does provide helpful principles when it comes to participation in pagan celebrations. It says that

- **Apostle Paul says** - *whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* (Philippians 4: 8).
 - *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.* (Ephesians 5:11)

- **The prophet Isaiah says** - *And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God?* (Isaiah 8: 19)
- **The wise man Solomon says** - *For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.* (Ecclesiastes 9: 5, 6)
- **The Apostle John says** - *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, and is now already in the world.* (1 John 4:1-3)

Where Do the Pumpkins in Halloween Celebration Come From?

The ancient Celts did not carve pumpkins; none existed in Europe during Celtic times!!!

So, who is the pumpkin?



Steps to Life

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Increasingly in Australia, the celebration of Halloween is gaining popularity. Aussie boys and girls are being encouraged to dress up in the ghoulish and ghostly garb of Halloween. They roam around the streets asking for treats or playing pranks on those who don't want to participate. Parents don't let their children door knock for deserving charities for reasons including that of safety. But it's ok with many parents, for their children to be out in the neighbourhood at dusk and into the evening because it's Halloween. As yet, we don't have a Halloween holiday, but after Christmas, Easter, ANZAC and Remembrance Days, the celebration of Halloween is becoming common place in Australia. There is an upsurge in Halloween parties for adults and children. The parties are accompanied by a ground swell in Halloween house decorating, charities using Halloween themes, movie marathons of horror films and the supernatural, ghost tours, costume sales and on it goes. Haunted attractions in the USA are huge business generating over \$400 million per annum. Australia is following suit.



The Symbols of Halloween

The symbols of Halloween are not drawn from Australian culture or Christian practice. Symbols include black cats, bats, spiders, ghosts, skeletons, werewolves, witches, wizards, jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins, graveyards, cobwebs, haunted houses and the colours of black, grey, green and orange. You've seen them. They are sold in our Aussie supermarkets.



Ask Yourself 'Why?'

Is the rising fascination with Halloween because it has any special significance to us Australians, particularly Christians who live in Australia? Is it because Halloween celebration epitomizes values and behaviours we want reflected in the character of our children? Is it because, as a society, we have a growing fascination for the bizarre, occult, and dark side of life? Is it good fun for our children to be immersed in the scary world of imagined beings from the dead, vampires and the like? Is it because corporate mangers who justify making huge profits out of selling tobacco, alcohol, the sexualisation of teenagers clothing and music, who flood us with the sensational and exciting, addict us to junk food high in fat, sugar and caffeine, etc, see another opportunity to increase their profits? Is it a force somewhat more compelling and sinister that is producing an increasing celebration of Halloween? Are there other explanations? Or is the real cause a combination of the above?

Do You Know Where Halloween Originates From and What It's Really About?

Halloween is celebrated on October 31. The evening is known as All Hallows' Eve in the Churches which observe All Saint's Day – a day on which they revere all their saints, particularly the one's that don't have their own designated day.

It has its roots in the ancient Celtic pagan harvest festival called Samhain. Samhain celebration marked the eve of the Celtic New Year. Samhain was the lord of death. Samhain celebration honored him. Celtic pagans believe the veil between the world of the living and the dead is the



thinnest on this night. As well, the sun god was honored and thanked for the harvest with bonfires being lit as a reflection of the warmth of the sun god.

The Druid tradition is that during the night of November 1, demons, witches, and evil spirits roamed the earth in a wild and furious romping of joy to

greet the arrival of the long nights and early dark of the winter months. They had their fun with poor mortals that night, frightening, harming, and playing all kinds of mean tricks on them. The only way for scared humans to escape the persecution of the demons was to offer them things they liked. Or, in order to escape the fury of these horrible creatures, a human could disguise them self as one of them and join in their roaming. In this way they would take the human for one of their own and they would not be bothered. So, the practice of trick or treat.

As the Catholic Church made inroads into Celtic countries, cultures and religious practice, through a process called synchronization, it married the pagan gods and festivals with it's own recognition of the Catholic church's saints and holy days. Hence, the merging of Halloween (October 31), All Hallows' Eve (October 31), All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). This pattern of holy days (holidays) has set a precedent a number of churches follow to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the influence the Catholic Church has had on them.

