

## Questions Posed for Study

**Question: To trick or treat? Is it wrong to go trick or treating?**

**Intro:** We realize that as time marches on we lose sight of the origins of some of the things or times of year in which we celebrate various events or holidays. Some origins of events have some very sinister origins and practices that may or may not be relevant to us and so we dismiss them as being benign or innocent in nature. The truth about Halloween is that it has original cultic founding's and grounded in spiritism and darkness. We will examine whether we should or should not be participating in this yearly practice.

**I. A little history on Halloween.**

A. Well, there is a lot more history than we'll be able to deal with in this forty-five minute class. But we can at least get a sense of why as -----, why we make the decision to not participate in this night of dark spiritualism.

1. When we use the words 'dark spiritualism' we are talking about a spiritual realm where \_\_\_\_\_ is abandoned and falsehoods and unbiblical truths abide, whether in the actual world or in the heart of the lost.
2. Spiritual darkness has always existed down throughout human history and where God has or is discounted and idolatry existed/exists, ----- influences exist and man experiences all manner of fear and having no biblical understanding, they have no \_\_\_\_\_ how to handle those fears. So, they by demonic influence and ignorance contrive all manner of false beliefs and means of protecting themselves from the departed dead or demons.

B. A brief history to give us some context:

1. Halloween originated as a \_\_\_\_\_ festival in what is now primarily Ireland.
  - a. They began their New Year on November 1 and believed the \_\_\_\_\_ returned the night before October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. That would be a night of vandalism or \_\_\_\_\_ on those yet alive.
  - c. To keep from being discovered they would put out all fires in the home so they couldn't be \_\_\_\_\_, or if going outside they would wear a mask so they couldn't be identified.
2. A.D. 43, the Romans conquered the Celts and a \_\_\_\_\_ process took place. Mixing the Celtic Halloween with two Roman celebrations that typically took place about the same time of year, Where Romans commemorated the dead and paid tribute to the

to the Roman goddess of fruits and trees.

3. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV.

- a. He attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the Celtic festival with one having a religious twist.
- b. Calling it 'All Saints Day' and celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Its purpose was to \_\_\_\_\_ saints and martyrs (worship).
- d. The day before was called "All Hallows Eve" & was later shortened to Halloween.

## II. Negative or positive!

- A. Once someone has spent some adequate time looking over the historical records concerning Halloween, from a Judeo-Christian perspective, there is nothing \_\_\_\_\_ about what Halloween represents, then or now!
- B. With so many negatives, churches have sought other \_\_\_\_\_ to counter the pagan, worldly celebration of an evening that is in reality steeped in darkness & falsehoods.
- C. Such church sponsored events do not celebrate Halloween, but provide an \_\_\_\_\_. while others prefer to have nothing to do with celebrating at all on this day of the year.
- D. Some reason:
  - a. It gives the entire family an excuse to not be at home during the 'trick or treat' hour. It also gives parents an excuse to not have to \_\_\_\_\_ why their kids do not participate. Though, as the Redeemed we should not be a shamed of explaining our stands. **(I Peter 3:15)**
  - b. Another, it provides an \_\_\_\_\_ to "trick or treating" in a Christian atmosphere where the young can play games and have fun.
  - c. Some feel it is an opportunity to dress up much like they might for a school project about the \_\_\_\_\_ etc.
  - d. If dressing up is suggested, then nothing counter to the Scriptures should be allowed, nor should they be encouraged, but rather \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. Some use trunk or treat as an alternative to give out tracks or evangelize, in which case the adults should refrain from anything representative of demons, the dead, or such things representative of what Halloween stands for.

## III. My perspective.

- A. As I have grown in the faith, there are many things I can no longer overlook as I did years ago, and Halloween is one of them.
  1. I no longer see Halloween as innocuous and \_\_\_\_\_ fun. It is Satanic in origin and

I doubt God wants us to be involved in any of Satan's divisive and anti-Christ \_\_\_\_\_ . Halloween's roots were found in idolatrous worship and fear.

2. The Jews have many celebrations that were about God's goodness and grace, where God is the \_\_\_\_\_ and the sole purpose for the celebrations. Halloween has absolutely no \_\_\_\_\_ redeeming value whatsoever. (Unless you are a dentist!)

3. While the Bible doesn't specifically talk about Halloween, it does talk about evil, witchcraft and the state of the dead. All things God warns us against in His Word.

a. **I Thessalonians 5:21 & 22**. Halloween is \_\_\_\_\_ with evil.

b. **Romans 3:12** – in truth, Halloween is about \_\_\_\_\_ darkness.

c. **II Corinthians 6:14 – 18** – Joining (yoking) with the \_\_\_\_\_ world.

d. **Ephesians 5:8 – 17**; Saved? Then we are the children of \_\_\_\_\_ and not darkness.

B. The closer we get to the Lord through the Word and life's experiences with Christ, the more we can see and understand how important it is for us to \_\_\_\_\_ as becometh children of God, truth and light.

C. Every individual and every church will have to decide for themselves to what extent we will excuse or justify why we do the things we do, especially when there is \_\_\_\_\_ biblical information to make informed, godly decisions.