

Now think for a moment about Halloween. Do these same thoughts of celebrating Jesus and His great love for us come to mind? Most likely, your mind becomes bombarded with images of ugly wart-faced witches, bats, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, graveyards, black cats, and jack-o-lanterns. Our society has never attempted to hide the fact that this day is associated with superstitions, spells, divination, communicating with the dead, and the occult. God is very clear when it comes to being involved in these types of activities. In Leviticus 19:31, the Bible says; "Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them; I am the Lord your God." In Deuteronomy 18:10-12, God says, "There shall not be found among you *anyone*...who practices witchcraft, *or* a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things *are* an abomination to the LORD..." It seems God is crystal clear on this.

If the Christian were asked to celebrate an Islamic Holiday, or participate in a Hindu Ritual, or celebrate Buddha's birthday, you would quickly conclude that it wouldn't bring glory and honor to Jesus or have anything to do with our faith...

So, why then would we participate in a day that celebrates death, pagan rituals, and the occult?

When it comes to seeking what is best concerning participating in activities of our culture, God gives us some great guidance in Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Here are some quick facts about Halloween

- Halloween originated several thousand years ago in what we now know as Great Britain & France, and originally was known as Samhain, or the "Festival of the Dead."
- A people group known as the Celts (Kelts) had an elite intellectual class called druids, who were considered religious priests. The Celts believed that on this night, the barrier between the natural world and supernatural world was removed, which allowed spirits of the dead access to the physical world.

- This night included contacting the dead, animal sacrifices, and possibly human sacrifices.
- When Christian's brought their faith to the Celtic peoples in the seventh century, some of the Celts traditional folk customs were changed. In 835 A.D., the church's "Feast of All Saints" was moved from May to November 1st to replace the observance of Samhain. All Saint's Day, still observed today by many Christians, honored believers who had died. The night before, which featured a sacred vigil in church, became known as "All Hallow's Eve," or Halloween.
- When Irish immigrants came to establish new lives in the America's, they brought this tradition with them, and the contemporary way that many Americans celebrate this day began less than one hundred years ago.
- Halloween today has now become a multi-billion dollar industry, second only to Christmas.
- Ex-Satanists claim they that on this night their covens would specifically pray against God's church.

A few principle's from the Bible that could be applied to Halloween:

- Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **Romans 12:9**
- Abstain from every form of evil. **1 Thes. 5:22**
- Beloved do not imitate what is evil. **3 John 11**

So what does a Christian do on Halloween?

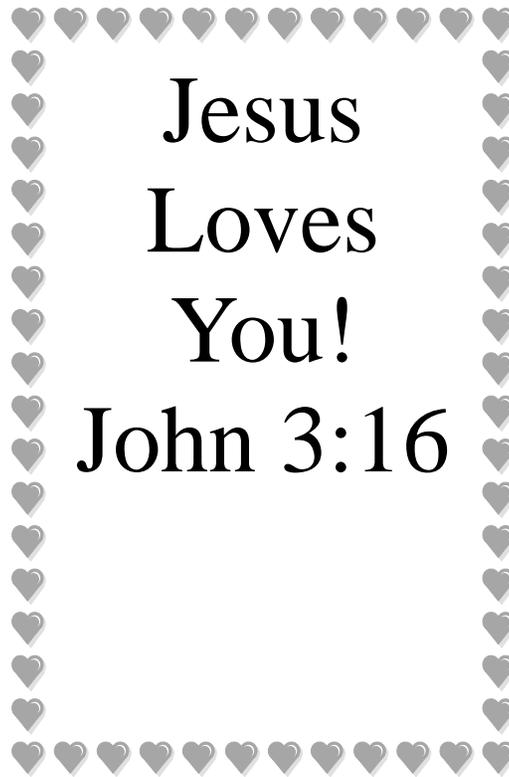
Do we just sit at home, turn the lights off, and not answer the door, pretending we're not home? No. Jesus has called us to be the light of the world, so that means we engage our culture, we don't hide from it. Like every other day, this day belongs to Jesus, and we have plenty to celebrate. Here are some better options for the Christian on October 31st.

- Many churches hold family functions on that night as an alternative to Halloween.

- Did you know that on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 point thesis to the church door at Wittenberg that began the Reformation and Protestant church? What a great theme for a family party at your church.

- Some Christian families use October 31st as a witnessing opportunity by intentionally staying home that night and giving out gospel tracts with the candy.

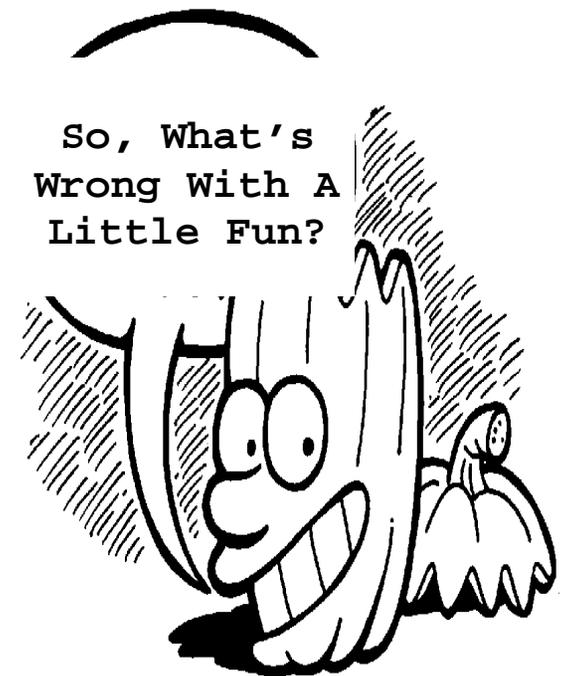
**Thank you for taking a moment to read this information.
God bless you and your family as you live to exalt the Lord!**



**Jesus
Loves
You!
John 3:16**



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What is a Christian to do about Halloween?

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally any without reproach, and it will be given to him.” - James 1:5

Think for a moment why we as Christians celebrate Christmas or Easter. We celebrate those times because they center on the Lord. Even Thanksgiving for the Christian has significant meaning when we celebrate how much Jesus has done for us.