

festivals should receive at least equal time in teaching and promotion. If Halloween is to be taught in schools, then teachers must be prepared to tell the whole story, including the sexual abuse of children and the ritual human sacrifice this festival of death is based on. We question whether these are appropriate subjects for primary school children.

Perhaps rewards could be made for acts of kindness towards those less fortunate than themselves, especially the elderly - this would produce better character.

We also invite people to organise prayer meetings in your church/community focused on protecting children from occultism in all its forms, including Halloween, TV programmes & related toys/games etc.

One Presbyterian Church in our city has been organising a "Angels & Saints" party - last year they had over 700 children, and this year they plan to hold it in two venues to cope with the growth of interest. In a totally different suburb, six churches joined and had a combined "Heroes" party - with children to dress like their heroes. Most came in the uniform of their favourite sport - and some national sports representatives who are Christians came along to encourage and to say a few words. The first time these churches did this brought in 600 children - over a thousand people and a great time was held by all.

One Baptist Church took a Master-copy of the Halloween leaflet we have distributed, ran off their own, and put them in every letterbox in their rural county. They got a significant response!

*"Have nothing to do with the things of darkness,
but rather expose them." (Ephesians 5:11)*

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HALLOWEEN

It Isn't What It Seems!!

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Many think Halloween comes from America, but actually it is a Celtic pagan festival from Britain and northwest Europe, dating from at least 500 BC. The Celts worshipped many gods & goddesses, encouraged by a secret priestly society known as the Druids. They engaged in occult arts, especially the worship of nature, and gave supernatural qualities to oak and mistletoe trees. Even the Celtic kings feared the Druids. When a king became too old to lead in a battle, the Druids would sacrifice him, cutting him up while still alive and use his organs for divination.



The Celts had at least 400 gods, and one of them, "Samhain", their god of Death, was worshipped on October 31st, the last day of the northern autumn, their New Year's Eve. They believed that on this night the Lord of Death gathered the souls of the evil dead who had been condemned to enter the bodies of animals, and then decided what animal form they would take for the next year. The souls of the good dead were also believed to be reincarnated as humans. They even falsely believed that the punishment of the evil dead could be lightened by sacrifices, prayers, and gifts to the Lord of Death. And on this night, Samhain allowed the spirits of those who had died during the previous year to return for a few hours to associate with their families.



Druid priests wore long black robes, and carried a hollowed-out turnip or pumpkin with the face of their "Familiar" - a demon - carved into it with a small candle inside for light. The lamp was often fuelled by fat from a previous human sacrifice. These lanterns were known as Jack-O-Lanterns, allegedly named after a miser trapped between heaven and hell and rejected by both.



The Druids would go house to house demanding special foods. If supplied obediently, they would leave for the next home; but if not, the household were cursed with trouble. Often a hex sign would be slashed into the door with the threat of the death of the oldest child within a year. That's the original "Trick or Treat!"

Some homes weren't asked for food - instead they required a young virgin girl. As midnight approached, these young girls were sexually abused then ritually sacrificed to appease this evil god of death. The Druids danced and screamed, drunk and demonised, to invoke Satan's help with their magic, witchcraft, sorcery and divination. The bodies of those sacrificed were thrown into the bone fires - now called bonfires.

As the centuries passed, the Romans conquered much of Europe. The Druids declined in number and power, allowing the common people to pick up the practices of Samhain and more. Many things were done to invoke "good luck" - meaning trying to find favour with the evil spirits many people believed controlled their lives.

By the 8th century, the Christian church (now more political than spiritual) attempted to overlay many pagan festivals and holidays with a "Christian" veneer. To counter Samhain, the Pope decreed November 1st as "All Saints Day" to honour the Christian dead, particularly those martyred for their faith during the earlier Roman persecutions. This attempted substitution didn't work.

Other elements of Halloween:

Witch on a broomstick - The Dark Ages saw a revival of witchcraft and paganism. Mediums (often thought of as witches) were employed to convince the nature spirits to allow a good harvest of crops such as grain. These mediums, usually women, would ride their broom sticks naked and leap around the growing crops, as part of their fertility ritual. The height they leaped was alleged to become the height of the crop. This leaping on a broom was often confused with Astral Travel when witches went out to spy on others or cause mayhem.



The Black Cat was often inhabited by a familiar or evil spirit. The Raven had a similar reputation.

The use of Masks arises from the idea that it was best to hide one's identity from the visiting souls of the dead by wearing costumes as a disguise. There may also be a connection with the use of masks in many other pagan festivals, which change the personality of the wearer and allow communication with the spirit world.



This form of 'celebration' is not unique to the Celts. The Hindus have their night of Holi, the Indians have their Feast of the Dead (every 12 years), and in Mexico the Day of the Dead begins on November 2nd and lasts for several days.

Halloween was brought to North America by Irish immigrants escaping the potato famine during the 1800's. Promoted by pagans of various kinds, along with commercial interests, Halloween has gripped once God-honouring nations with its occultic tentacles.

What should we tell our children?

God isn't a kill-joy. We believe He wants us to have fun, but without the occultic snares of Halloween. Children need to be warned about the abuse and evil history associated with Halloween. Scriptures which advise us to stay away from events like Halloween include: Deut. 18:9; Jer. 10:1-3; Romans 12:9; 1 Thess. 5:22; 3 John 11; & Eph. 5:11. Also Halloween and similar subjects desensitise us to evil; it isn't good to expect rewards on demand; the benefits of acting out modern versions of old pagan rituals are questionable; tell children good things such as the true Christmas story of God's love for us sent through Jesus Christ.



Note to Parents & Teachers:

In the Bible we are instructed to measure things by their fruit. Halloween's fruit in modern America has been increasingly bad. Children knocking on doors are open to "Stranger Danger", and there are regular reports each year of children disappearing on this night of death, or who receive sweets or fruit laced with drugs and even parts of razor blades.



We invite people to write to their local school principal and School Board of Trustees and politely request a thorough investigation of Halloween, its history and its consequences. If Halloween is permitted to continue to be promoted in our public schools, then traditional Christian, Jewish and other religious