

IS



Halloween

What are we celebrating?



Halloween Traditions

All Hallows Eve
Darkness
Prayer
Meal
Dressing up
Lanterns



20th Century

Halloween becomes a national
festival

Fun from - Supernatural
- Death

What does the Bible have to say about the supernatural and the occult?



What was Jesus' view?

Much of what we call the supernatural does not have any place for God

Jesus acknowledged the existence of Satan



**In Luke 10.18 Jesus said
“I saw Satan fell like
lightning from heaven. I
have given you
authority to trample on
snakes and scorpions and
to overcome all the
power of the enemy”.**



**Matthew 12. 26 Jesus said
“If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided
against himself. How then can his
kingdom stand? And if I did I drive out
demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your
people drive them out? So then, they
will be your judges. But if I drive out
demons by the Spirit of God, then the
kingdom of God has come upon you”.**



Ephesians: (6.12)

“our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”.

Leviticus (19. 26,31) :

“Do not practice divination or sorcery.....do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them”



Witchcraft

Control by casting spells

Opposite of submission to God

What does the Bible say about witchcraft?

2 Chronicles 33.5-6 we hear about king Manassa, who did much evil in the eyes of the Lord: “he erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to the starry hosts and worshipped them....practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger”.

What does the Bible say about witchcraft?

Galatians 5.19-20: “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition.....”

What does the Bible say about witchcraft?

Revelation 18.23 “...by your magic spell all the nations were led astray”

Hebrew *kashaph*

Greek *pharmakeia*

Fun and make believe?

In 1 Timothy 4.1-10 Paul writes “The (Holy) Spirit says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits, and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose conscience has been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth”



Has the occult become part of our culture?

The Independent (May 2007):

According to research record numbers of young women are dabbling in witchcraft, fuelling a boom in sales of spell books and other pagan paraphernalia. A study of teenagers and their consumption of books, magazines, kits, films and other media found that there were 700,000 internet sites for teenage witches in 2007.

How far is the media influencing our young people?

Films

TV shows

Books

Internet sites

Merchandise

..... the supernatural has become big business!



How should we respond?



What would Scooby do?

What did Jesus teach us?

Jesus did not say everything supernatural is to be ignored or avoided

John 14.12

Luke 10.9

Matthew 12.28



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“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith” (1 Peter 5.8-9).

Other things to keep in mind

Satan can appear attractive

People tend to want to keep a back door open

There is no middle ground

“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters”

(Matthew 12.30)

Are you putting your trust in Jesus?

We should be **discerning!**

1 John 4: "do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world"

Ask yourself.....

Do I talk to my children about Halloween & spiritual things?

Do I know what they are watching / reading / doing?

Can they differentiate?

Is Halloween appropriate?

For my child?
Age appropriate?
Content?
What message are we
conveying?



What is our focus?

Our focus should be on God

“The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it” (John 1.5)

How can we help others?

1 Timothy 4.6-7 :

“If you point these things out to the brothers (*and sisters*), you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus...have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives tales; rather train yourself to be godly”.



Are we prepared?

This Halloween do something positive...

Reach out and witness to the children who come to your door to 'Trick or Treat' with the Bag of Hope.



What is Halloween all about?

- Celebrating darkness not light
- Occult not things from God
- Fear of death and darkness
- Evil spirits
- Also a Pagan festival
- Part of our culture?
- Fun, exciting, alluring?
- Encourages dabbling in the occult

So what now?

Do I celebrate Halloween?

Should we just ignore it?

Where will you draw the line?

What is your spiritual diet?

So what now?

Should we be afraid of Halloween?

Is Halloween harmless?



“Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you”

(James 4.7)

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8.38-39)

Questions?



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