



Halloween

And the Adventist Christian

By Barrington H. Brennen
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Questions:

- ✓ When did Halloween start?
- ✓ What does the Bible say about Halloween?
- ✓ Should Adventists participate in Halloween?
- ✓ Can we dress up in Halloween costumes?
- ✓ Can we go trick-or-treating?



History of Halloween

“The origin of Halloween as we know, began over 1900 years ago in the area of England, Ireland, and Northern France. It was a celtic celebration of the new year, called Samhain which occurred on November 1. The celtic druids revered it as the biggest holiday of the year and emphasized that day as the time when the souls of the dead supposedly could mingle with the living. Bonfires were a large aspect of this holiday as well.”




History of Halloween

“Another tradition is the druidic belief that during the night of November 1, demons, witches, and evil spirits freely roamed the earth with joy to greet the arrival of "their season" - the long nights and early dark of the winter months. The demons had their fun with poor mortals that night, frightening, harming, and even playing all kinds of mean tricks on them. . .



History of Halloween

... The only way, it seemed, for scared humans to escape the persecution of the demons was to offer them things they liked, especially fancy foods and sweets. Or, in order to escape the fury of these horrible creatures, a human could disguise himself as one of them and join in their roaming. In this way they would recognize the human as a demon or witch and the human would not be bothered that night.”



Believe it or not, Halloween is the only ancient holiday/festival that has maintained its evil trappings to this day. It is wholesome to give gives during Christmas time. Christ did die on the cross making “Easter” a special time to remember His death. However, dressing up like the devil is not a good practice.” *Barrington Brennen*



Bible Texts

- ✓ Deuteronomy 18:9-14
- ✓ Galatians 5:19-21
- ✓ 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- ✓ Micah 5:12
- ✓ Ephesians 6:12



Should Adventist Participate?

No. Certainly not Because Halloween is about the celebration of death. Or It is fraternization with death. The very costumes are about the evils of Satan. It is about a concept of death and the living that Adventists cannot not believe in.



Should Adventist Participate?

Is the holiday uplifting? Is Halloween pure? Is it lovely, praiseworthy, or of good report? Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure . . .



Should Adventist Participate?

... whatsoever things are lovely,
whosoever things are of good report; if
there be any virtue, and if there be any
praise, think on these things.”



Should Adventist Participate?

“Is Halloween based on godly themes such as the idea of peace, freedom and salvation or does the holiday bring to mind feelings of fear, obsession and bondage?”



Should Adventist Participate?

“Additionally, does the Bible sanction witchcraft, witches, and sorcery? On the contrary, the Bible makes it clear that these practices are an abomination to the Lord.”







Trick or Treat

“Halloween costumes, candy, and trick or treat: According to the book *Halloween – An American Holiday, An American History*, some of the Celts wore ghoulish costumes so that wandering spirits would mistake them for one of their own and leave them alone. Others offered sweets to the spirits to appease them. In medieval Europe, the Catholic clergy adopted local pagan customs and had their adherents go from house to house wearing costumes and requesting small gifts. The Bible, on the other hand, does not permit merging false religious practices with the worship of God.” — 2 Corinthians 6:17.

From Bibleinfo.com



The Halloween Pumpkin

“Halloween pumpkins, or jack-o’-lanterns: In medieval Britain, “supplicants moved from door to door asking for food in return for a prayer for the dead,” and they would carry “hollowed-out turnip lanterns, whose candle connoted a soul trapped in purgatory.” (*Halloween – From Pagan Ritual to Party Night*) Others say that the lanterns were used to ward off evil spirits. During the 1800’s in North America, pumpkins replaced turnips because they were plentiful as well as easy to hollow out and carve. The beliefs behind this custom – the immortality of the soul, purgatory, and prayers for the dead – are not based on the Bible.” — Ezekiel 18:4.





Halloween Costumes

“Participation in Halloween customs may seem innocent fun for children and adults, but it is one more way Satan can use to deceive people into thinking there is no harm in playing a little bit with the world of spirits and demons.”

By Gerhard Pfandl, former Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute.





Halloween Costumes

“Halloween and its customs have no roots in Scripture or in the Christian Church. They are firmly rooted in the occult and in pagan practices.”

By Gerhard Pfandl, former Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute.



Ellen White and Halloween

While Ellen White never mentioned Halloween, she warned many times against dabbling in spiritualism:

“There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by more pleasing forms of spiritism.”

By Gerhard Pfandl, former Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute.



Adventist Position

“Although the Seventh-day Adventist Church has not taken an official position specifically against Halloween, the church’s opposition to the occult and the demonic precludes any support for this type of festival.”

By Gerhard Pfandl, former Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute.



Have No Part with This

“As you think about Halloween – its origins and what it stands for – would it be best to spend time dwelling upon its themes or to shed light upon what lies below the surface of this holiday's celebration. God is calling humanity to follow Him and to "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing” (2 Corinthians 6:17).



Ephesians 5:11

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” *New King James Version*

“Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.”
New Living Translation



Can We Have a Christian Costume Party?

- ✓ Yes, as long as it is not replacing the Halloween party.
- ✓ Having children or adults dress up like historical persons, contemporary legends, or Bible characters can be a great object lesson.
- ✓ Remember, instead of celebrating death, let us celebrate life in Jesus.



Eternal Life

And the Adventist Christian