

A Word of Truth

We felt it appropriate to share with the saints the truth concerning Halloween. The church does not endorse or encourage the participation by the children in any events associated with Halloween.

Halloween has absolutely nothing to do with Christ and the Church. It is pagan in nature, originating more than 2,500 years ago in pre-Roman Britain as a pagan Celtic festival. In fact, when the Romans conquered the Celts, activities were added which are still practiced today. In the seventh century, Pope Gregory I advised the (Roman Catholic) church leadership to adapt the pagan customs during this time of the year. In his letter he wrote, "If the people are allowed some worldly pleasures in this way, they will more readily come to desire the joys of the spirit." In A.D. 731, Pope Gregory III began the festival of "All Saints," or "All Hollows" to honor all the dead saints believed to be in heaven. The eve of All Hollows (All Saints Day) came to be called Halloween. Customs associated with this holiday were brought to America in the late 1800's by Irish Catholic immigrants. Practices associated with this day include trick or treat, costumes, pumpkins with carved out faces (jack-o-lanterns) and bonfires just to mention a few.

The Bible presents a clear speaking regarding this day and the practices associated with it: Fortune telling and divination are condemned (Deut. 18:9-14); contact with the dead is condemned (I Samuel 28:7-8); I Chronicles 10:13-14); contact with evil spirits is condemned (Leviticus 19:31). So what should our attitude in the church be? We reject anything related to the Devil or demons. We reject anything related to heathen religions. We reject any mixture or confusion of worldly or Christianity practices in the church life.

As saints in the Lord's recovery we have been delivered out of the authority of darkness, the kingdom of Satan and transferred into the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18). We are now not darkness, but light in the Lord, so we must walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8; I Jn 1:7). We must not bring anything associated with Satan into our houses, but we must make a thorough clearance of all such things (Deut. 7:26; Acts 19:19). And above all, we must love the Lord and hate evil (Psalm 97:10).

We pray that all the saints and their children would be empowered by the Lord to stand against this evil day and encourage our children to do so, as well. May the Lord continue to supply us with His abounding grace.