

HALLOWEEN AND THE CHRISTIAN
1 THESSALONIANS 5:22

Introduction

First of all let me say that **THE BIBLE DOES NOT SPEAK DIRECTLY ABOUT HALLOWEEN** because Halloween did not exist in Bible days.

So, what do we do about things that are not mentioned specifically in the Scriptures? Well, what we CANNOT DO is to assume that because something is not specifically mentioned in Scripture, then God must be somehow OK with it!

Listen to me closely, God has given us (and by “us” I’m talking about true believers) ALL that we need in order to make INFORMED DECISIONS about such things as this! What are our resources?:

1. We Have The Entirety Of The Word Of God!

(Which IS by the way, our FINAL AUTHORITY!)

2 Timothy 3:16-17—“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

A. Profitable For Doctrine—Shows Us What Is Right!

B. Profitable For Reproof—Shows Us What Is Wrong!

C. Profitable For Correction—Shows Us How To Take What Is Wrong In Our Life And Make It Right!

D. Profitable For Instruction In Righteousness—Shows Us How To Stay Right!

i.e. It gives us ALL we need to mature in our faith and have what we need to do the good works God would have us do!

The Bible gives us God’s principles and God’s precepts that are ETERNAL—They apply to both time and eternity!

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2. We Have The Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit Of God!

John 14:26—“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

3. We Have Our Body, Soul, And Mind That Have Been Saved By God’s Grace To Be Lived In Love For The Lord And In Obedience To God! (i.e. He is to be Lord of our lives!)

Mark 12:30—“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”

Luke 6:46—“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

I want us to consider the verse of our text here in 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

What does this directive mean, “Abstain from all appearance of evil”?

1. WHAT THIS PHRASE DOES NOT MEAN!

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” does not mean that a Christian should refuse to do anything or participate in any activity **that is thought by others to be evil or sinful.**

On many occasions, the Lord Jesus Christ did things which were thought by many Jews of His day to be evil. Remember when He and His disciples plucked grain from the field on the Sabbath and ate it, others who saw it were persuaded that what they were doing was wrong. *[Matthew 12:1-8]*

Remember the Pharisees reaction when He healed a man on the Sabbath? *[Matthew 12:9-15]*

And again, they were outraged when Jesus healed a woman on the Sabbath, in the synagogue! *[Luke 13:11-17]*

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Also there were people who thought the preaching and teaching of the apostles was wrong. In fact, Paul, himself, persecuted the followers of Christ before his own conversion, because he was utterly convinced that what they did and the way of life they were following was just plain wrong.

Much of what Christians are commanded by God to do are things that others believe to be wrong. It should be of no concern to us whether someone believes what we do is wrong or not! After all, our rule of faith and practice is not according to the standard set by other people! It is God's Word!

So, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil*" does not mean that you should not do things that other people are persuaded you should not do. **Christians are not to be slaves to the opinions and values of others.**

2. SO, WHAT DOES THIS PHRASE MEAN?

"Abstain from all appearance of evil."

The word "*abstain*" is a verb that means "*to hold one's self from.*" Therefore, what we have here is a command to pull yourself away from something, to draw back from something.

Yet, it is the word "*appearance*" that causes problems for many reading the Bible. Too frequently, insufficient study results in the reader thinking that this word refers only to what something looks like.

But closer examination reveals that this word "*appearance*" refers to something else. This word refers to "*visible form, outward show.*" The word could also be used in the sense of '*kind,*' '*species,*' '*class.*'

"Evil" refers to that which is "*hurtful or evil (in effect or influence.)*"

So, Paul is NOT telling us to pull away from everything that appears TO OTHERS to be evil.

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He is telling us to withdraw from every kind of evil, from every sort of wickedness, from every class of wrongdoing.

To put it another way, **there is no kind of association with evil or sin which is acceptable for a Christian to engage in.**

So, we see here **a principle is established in the Christian life.**

We are to shrink away from what is wrong! We are to withdraw from what is sinful! But if what we are doing is the right thing to do, even if others think it is wrong, we are under no such obligation!

Every year on October 31st is Halloween. It falls on this Friday this year. Throughout our country the campaign is already underway to promote the celebration of witches, hobgoblins, occultism and death.

I'm not railing on anybody this morning, but I would like you to listen carefully for a few minutes. I want to give you **seven reasons why Christians, should not celebrate Halloween.**

I. BECAUSE IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVIL!

Our text, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil,*" very clearly establishes God's will regarding matters that are evil.

Abstain from all of them.

Withdraw from every one of them.

Don't participate in any of them.

I am NOT saying that we as Christians should not celebrate Halloween because some people think it is wrong. What I AM saying is that we should NOT celebrate Halloween because it is most definitely associated with evil!

And because it is associated with evil, we should not participate in the world's celebration of it! I practice what I preach and teach on this! (Our children were raised NOT to participate in Halloween except to use it as an opportunity to witness to the trick-or-treaters that came to our door by handing out tracts along with candy!)

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BECAUSE IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVIL!

II. BECAUSE IT IS WORLDLY!

1 John 2.15-16—“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
(The word “world” refers to the “world system”, in this context.)

How can anyone who has ever seen a Halloween celebration deny that it is worldly? What is there about Halloween that is spiritually right, that is of God, that is not self-centered and even sensual?

Therefore, because Halloween is worldly, and we are forbidden to love the world, with its lust and its pride! We should forgo its celebration.

1 John 5.19, which declares “*the whole world lieth in wickedness,*” establishes for us the morality of the world, the morality of mankind, the level of spirituality of the human race.

Things that are worldly, and Halloween is definitely worldly (don’t let anyone suggest to you that it’s not), are things that should be shunned, avoided, passed by in favor of that which is pleasing to God.

III. BECAUSE CELEBRATING IT IS DISLOYAL!

Halloween is verifiably the Devil’s night—It is recognized by Satan’s followers as Satan’s celebration! That is an established fact that can be verified by anyone who can do an Internet search of the phrase “*Halloween evil.*”

What I think needs to be pointed out is that there is something that we who claim to be blood bought and blood washed Christians should exemplify—That is Loyalty to Christ!

Do you feel any compulsion to demonstrate loyalty to our LORD?—For your children’s and grandchildren’s sake? For your sake? For the sake of a lost and dying world? But most of all, for Christ’s sake?

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Remember when Joshua confronted the children of Israel, in *Joshua 24.15*? He said, “*Choose you this day whom ye will serve. . . as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*”

Then there was Elijah on Mount Carmel, facing off with the false prophets! Listen to what he said to the people, in *1 Kings 18.21*—“*How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.*”

I am suggesting that Christians should recognize whose side they are on—it ought to be on the Lord’s side! We should show our loyalty to Christ!

IV. BECAUSE IT GRIEVES THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Ephesians 4:30—“*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*”

We are engaged in a spiritual warfare! We are exhorted in *Ephesians 6:10-18*, to “*...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might*” and “*to put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*”

We are exhorted in *1 Peter 5:8-9* to “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith...*”

The battle lines are clearly drawn! The opponents are identified! Whose side are you own? In *Luke 11:23*—“*He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.*”

Do you not care that the Spirit of God is grieved by that behavior which opposes the Savior, which demeans the Lord, which denigrates His importance?

This Spirit Who indwells each and every Christian, seeks to exalt Christ through your life!

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What, then, is the reaction of the precious Holy Spirit when we compromise and even collaborate with the enemy? Do you not understand that He is grieved, because such behavior wounds Him!

V. BECAUSE IT TRIVIALIZES THE ENEMY!

We have no more dangerous foe than this one who God calls the dragon, that old serpent, the devil, Satan, the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air!

He is the one who tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden to sin and by doing that helped to plunge all of mankind into the darkness of sin!

He is the same one who seeks your personal destruction, the destruction of your family and friends, as well as the destruction of this Church and every other true Church that belongs to Christ!

He is the one we have to contend with on a daily basis! He is one who Scripture says fills folks' hearts to lie to the Holy Ghost! Is Satanic opposition nothing? Are we to simply ignore this one who walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour?

And what about the fallen angels, the demons, who serve him by subverting us? Are these ones who seduce men to depart from the faith to be laughed at and made light of?

But think about what Halloween is. It is a carnival of demonic silliness, a minimizing of demonic terror and danger to childish fun!

I guarantee you that 99.99% of that which is associated with Halloween is nonsense and amusement and is exploited by businesses for the sole purpose of generating cash flow! I heard a news report that said people now spend more money on Halloween than Christmas!

But do plastic masks or sugar candy make Satan less dangerous an adversary than he is?

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In the time I have been in the ministry I have encountered some demon possessed people and it is nothing to be trivialized!

I have observed some of the tragedies that are caused by these foul spirits that are made fun of on Halloween, and I am here to tell you that making a game of it and pretending that it's all harmless fun is of no benefit at all to the person afflicted by the devil and his demons!

It serves no good purpose whatsoever to trivialize our spiritual enemy! On the contrary, it only gives aid and comfort to the enemy by causing those afflicted by him to underestimate the danger and the damage that he can cause!

VI. BECAUSE THOUGH IT MAY BE LAWFUL, IT IS NOT EXPEDIENT.

In *1 Corinthians 10.23*, Paul wrote, "*All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.*"

What did he mean by that? He meant that Christians have great liberty, but that the exercise of Christian liberty must be guided by consideration of whether or not people are edified, whether or not people are built up in the faith.

Think long and hard about this. Consider and ponder and meditate for as long as you want. Search the Scriptures to your heart's content.

Does celebrating Halloween benefit anyone in a spiritual way? Is Christ exalted? Is God honored? Is the Spirit yielded to by anyone's involvement in a celebration of Halloween?

The answer is "No," therefore it is not expedient. Since it is not expedient, Christians should not be involved in it in any way and to any degree!

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VII. BECAUSE IT HAS WICKED ORIGINS.

I am unaware of any informed person who does not know of the druidic origins of the different practices of Halloween, that it is absolutely antichristian, and it is positively Satanic. There is no question that what we know as Halloween comes from a series of pre-Christian practices in Europe and the British Isles. And each practice, from trick or treating, to the Jack-o-lantern, to the bobbing for apples, to the witches, to the black cats, and all the rest, have their origins in the wickedness of this festival of death.

On what occasion was this celebration sanctified and consecrated by God so that it would bless and benefit those who observed it?

At what point did God's opposition to that which is demonic suddenly change to approval?

That which has wicked origins is wicked. That which has wicked origins cannot become good. So, since Halloween started out evil, it is still evil, and no Christian should have anything to do with it.

CONCLUSION

So, there you have it. Seven reasons why no Christian should celebrate Halloween. And if some Christian should disagree with one or more of these reasons and only agree with ONE—One reason should be good enough!

Ephesians 5:11—“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

Ephesians 5:13—“But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.”

Ephesians 5:15-16—“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”