



CHRISTIANS AND HALLOWEEN

Grace has always avoided celebrating Halloween in the traditional sense because of the strong occult overtones associated with this day. Instead of using such symbols as jack-o-lanterns, witches, ghosts, black cats, monsters, etc., we use a "harvest" theme in our elementary classrooms. We plan to continue this approach.

Following is a short, informative article taken from [Demons, Witches and the Occult](#), by Josh McDowell and Don Stewart, which we hope will be helpful as you contemplate how, as Christians, to approach Halloween.

Halloween

by Josh McDowell & Don Stewart

The day witches celebrate above all others is October 31, which is All Hallows Eve or Halloween. It is believed that on this night Satan and his witches have their greatest power.

The origin of Halloween goes back 2,000 years before the days of Christianity to a practice of the ancient Druids in Britain, France, Germany and the Celtic countries. The celebration honored their god, Samhain, lord of the dead.

The time of falling leaves seemed an appropriate time to celebrate death, which is exactly what Halloween was to them: a celebration of death honoring the god of the dead. The Druids believed that on this particular evening the spirits of the dead returned to their former home to visit the living.

If the living did not provide food for these evil spirits, all types of terrible things would happen to the living. If the evil spirits did not get a treat, then they would trick the living.

Before the introduction of Christianity to these lands, the celebration of death was not called Halloween. Halloween is a form of the designation "All Hallows Eve," a holy evening instituted by the Church to honor all the saints of Church history.

Some Church historians allow the possibility that All Saints' Eve was designated October 30 to counteract the pagan influences of the celebration of death. While All Hallows Eve began as a strictly Christian holiday, the pagan influences from earlier traditions gradually crept in while the Church's influences waned.

Today Halloween is largely a secular holiday, an excuse to get dressed up as somebody else and have a party. However, true witches and followers of witchcraft still preserve the early pagan beliefs and consider Halloween a sacred and deadly powerful time.