



Trick or Treat? - Halloween and Seventh-day Adventists

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Although the Seventh-day Adventist Church has not taken an official position specifically against Halloween, the churches' opposition to the occult and the demonic precludes any support for this type of festival. 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. These connections, however, are today forgotten or made light of. Nevertheless, any practice derived from the occult is incompatible with the teachings of Scripture. (Leviticus 20:6)

Since many people no longer believe in the existence of a personal devil and his demons, they feel there is no harm in making fun of these "religious relics of the past." The children are taught that there are no such beings as witches and evil spirits and that it is fun to dress up as ghosts or goblins. The modern denial of the existence of Satan and demonic forces is clearly contrary to Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation the Bible affirms the existence of Satan and demonic spirit beings (Genesis 3:1; Job 1:6; Matthew 8:31; Revelation 12:9).

In the education of children it is important that we do not plant false ideas in their minds. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). To teach them that there is no harm in imitating evil spirits is contrary to God's will.

God in the Old Testament warned Israel not to dabble in the occult. "There shall not be found among you ... one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls upon the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). Since the occult is today more active than ever, this counsel is still valid today. 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.

While Ellen White never mentions Halloween, she has many warnings against dabbling in spiritualism: Spiritualists make the path to hell most attractive. Spirits of darkness are clothed by these deceptive teachers in pure robes of heaven, and they have power to deceive those not fortified with Bible truth. (Great Controversy, p.86). There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by more pleasing forms of spiritism. (Evangelism, p.606).

Seventh-day Adventists recognize that spiritualism has many faces. Some of them may seem harmless and even fun. Nevertheless, they lead children and adults away from God's truth, and can become stepping stones to further entanglement with the occult. Therefore, we do not recommend participation in the celebrations and festivities in connection with Halloween.

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SORRY



We don't celebrate
halloween.