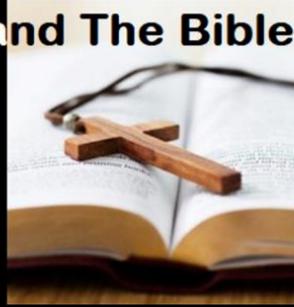


21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2023

Saturday, 10/21 at 4:00 | Sunday, 10/22 at 9:00

## Halloween and The Bible



*Should Christians Participate or Abstain?  
What does the Bible say?*

Text: New International Version

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Even though all people have similarities, *there are also huge differences:*

- **Repentant ones:** Forgiven, righteous in God's sight, children of God, and heaven-bound!
- **Unrepentant ones:** In their sins, unrighteous in God's sight, children of the devil, and hell-bound!

Since God has made us different, *He calls us to be different!*

### 1. **The LORD Instructed the Descendants of Jacob/Israel:**

- a. **Leviticus 19:31** Do not turn to mediums [*spirits of dead people*] or seek out spiritists [*people who possess the spirits of dead people*], for you will be defiled [*corrupted*] by them. // Let us avoid such things!
- b. **Deuteronomy 7:26** Do not bring a detestable thing [*the image of a false god*] into your house or you, like it, will be

set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction. // Let us listen!

- c. **Deuteronomy 18:9-14** When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination [*decision-making by casting lots – apart from God*] or sorcery [*causes something to make an appearance*], interprets omens [*demonic signs*], engages in witchcraft [*demonic magic*], or casts spells [*demonic curses*], or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable [*offensive, an abomination*] to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. // Those who were living in the Promised Land were driven out by the LORD because of their detestable practices. Moses warned the descendants of Jacob to avoid doing the same. Repentant ones listen to the LORD, *not to the forces of darkness!*

## 2. **The Sad Consequences of Disobedience:**

- a. **2 Chronicles 33:6** He [*King Manasseh, the son of King Hezekiah*] sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger. // Let us be *the opposite of Manasseh!*

- b. **Hosea 4:6** “...my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” // Through the Bible the Holy Spirit gives us knowledge, *so let us be wise by properly applying it!*
- c. **Micah 5:12-13** I [the LORD] will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells. I will destroy your carved images and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. // Let us not provoke the LORD to anger!

### 3. **Instructions for Followers of Jesus:**

- a. **Romans 12:2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. // Christians **are in the world, but not of the world!**
- b. **1 Corinthians 10:20-21** ...the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. // Let us not participate with demons!
- c. **2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? // Since God has made us His own through Jesus, *let us show to whom we belong as we live in agreement with God’s word!*
- d. **Galatians 5:19-20** The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality [fornication], impurity [uncleanness] and debauchery [outrageous sexual behavior]; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of

rage, selfish ambition, dissensions [*disunity*], factions [*holding beliefs contrary to the Bible*] and envy; drunkenness, orgies [*excessive feasting; originally, festive procession in honor of the wine god*], and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. // We have been warned; *let us repent wherever it is necessary!*

- e. **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. // Let us fill our minds with all that is pleasing to God!
- f. **1 Thessalonians 5:21-22** Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. // Let us test everything by comparing it with God's holy word!
- g. **James 1:27** Religion [*that is, external observances*] that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. // The world wants us to compromise *but let us abstain!*
- h. **James 4:4** You adulterous [*unfaithful*] people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. // When we participate in the activities of darkness, *we are befriending the world!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, our Maker and Redeemer, make us sorry, forgive us, and help us to honor You in everything!

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