



# TABOO

## Taboo Series Part 5

October 29, 2023

Trick or Truth? Is Halloween a Holiday or a “not so holy” day?

The Book of Deuteronomy 18:9-14, <sup>9</sup>“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. <sup>10</sup>There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer <sup>11</sup>or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, <sup>12</sup>for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you. <sup>13</sup>You shall be blameless before the Lord

your God, <sup>14</sup>for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do this.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, In Jesus Name! Amen!

Halloween. Is it evil or harmless? What is its origin? What is its history? How did it become recognized by the Church? Should Christians participate and be involved in this holiday? Before I get into the answers to these questions allow me to build a case upon which to provide context and understanding to the endgame of my sermon today.

The Torah, which is the first five books of the Old Testament Cannon, were written by Moses; Namely, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Book of Deuteronomy is the last portion of text recorded in the Torah leading up to the death of Moses and the rise of Joshua to take the helm of leadership of the nation to lead them into Canaan, the promised land of God to Abraham.

In light of this promise of inheritance, we discover the reason why the Lord is warning Moses to prepare the people in Deuteronomy 18:9, <sup>9</sup>“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.”

Notice the command written here... do not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations... Church there is a power found in darkness and the darkness of this present age is not to be tampered with.

Friends, allow me to draw a clear conclusion from this text; if human sacrifice, divination, fortune-telling, omen-interpretation, sorcery, witchcraft, charmers, mediums, necromancers, or those who inquire of the dead were harmless acts and just kids' stuff then why is the Lord God Himself warning Moses to command the people to drive these practitioners out and refuse to learn from them as well as from their abominable practices? Their practices apparently concerned God enough to instruct his people to not listen to them; why? Because they were participating with something that was not of this world.

Church, listen to me emphatically on the what I am about to share with you. All of these practices noted in Deuteronomy 18 are still around, they just identify by a different name; the same is applicable to idol gods.

Their names change but their functions/positions have remained the same. Such modern manifestations of historic practices are the New Age movement, the Occult, Wicca, Satanism, Witchcraft, Astral Projection (spirit walking) Ouija boards (communication with the dead) stones and crystal (charmers) mediums (clairvoyance and psychics) as well as human sacrifice. All of the points noted in Deuteronomy 18 are still here today.

The Bible is clear that there is nothing new under the sun and what was is what shall be. The seeking of dark arts is just as alive today as it was at the time of Moses warning the people who were preparing to enter Canaan.

Church family, these activities have not gone away and there is a power and demonstration attached to these practices. Hence the reason why the Lord told Moses to warn the people to refuse to learn from the abominable acts of those in these nations. It would lead to deception and a drawing away into dark things that would destroy the nation as well as their relationship with their God.

Dear hearts, I have seen the darkness of this world manifest thru people. Demonic possession is not a joke and it is not fake; it is not Hollywood fiction. It is as real as the chair your setting in and the air that we breath. (Demons - Origin, Function, Intent, Personal Experiences)

The Bible records in the 1 letter of the Apostle John in 1 John 3:8 the following text, **“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”**

Friends, as the Church, we cannot destroy the works of the devil when we make the conscious choice to partner with the works of darkness due to the pressure of accommodating a society that wants to stamp the church’s redemption on pagan practices and call it godly.

It is the demand for tolerance and acceptance that we see in Solomon’s Kingdom when he began to marry women from different kingdoms and allowed them to bring their idols and dark art practices into the Nation that eventually lead to abominations in the Nation.

With all of this in mind, mankind's desires to harness darkness predates this notation in the Book of Deuteronomy chapter 18; it actually spans all the way back to Genesis chapter 11.

In the Book of Genesis, chapter 11, it records the story of the Tower of Babel and Nimrod's rise to power in the Earth leading to another rebellion against God (post-Noahic flood) and thus there came the confusion of the languages of men and the dispersion of mankind throughout the earth.

This tower would give humanity access to something that would enable and equip them to accomplish whatever they purposed to do. God Himself said that. But what would this tower give them access to?

What was it that was so dangerous that God Himself had to intervene to protect humanity from an apparent imminent destruction? It is my firm belief that they were accessing darkness and evil powers in the second heaven or second dimension; they were accessing the spirit realm and seeking to gain power from it. This is why I encourage you to do your homework on Halloween before you embrace it as a good thing because it is not.

The Spirit Realm is more real than our realm; that dimension is far more "real" than ours. There are powers in this present age that are ancient and though their names have changed, their agendas haven't.

The Fallen angels, the watchers, are still striving to do their job with ancient agendas.

In a blog post on a website called the “Spiritual Satanist” entitled “Why do Satanist celebrate Halloween” the following was written, “The Church of Satan, (Anton LaVey, et al.) proclaimed that Halloween was one of the more important holidays of the year for Satanists. In an essay about Halloween, Magistra Blanche Barton said this of the dark holiday: “Halloween is traditionally a time when the obscure portal into the realms of darkness, death and the supernatural is thrown open.” Satanists should celebrate Halloween and appreciate the magical benefits that this holiday offers. We are moving towards the darkness during this holiday, and this shift is welcome. The veil between the physical and the spiritual is at its thinnest point compared to the rest of the year. It is the perfect time to explore inner darkness. Further on, they explain that Halloween is the fall climax, and it should be celebrated as a time when one’s inner self can be explored. Using costumes or dressing up allows you to, for one night, be who you want to be and to take on a different role than you may not be in everyday life. It truly is a time of self-indulgence!”

Again, I repeat, you need to investigate Halloween and its origins; you need to do your due diligence to check into matters before you fully embrace them as harmless. Everything is not as it seems and often times the greatest deceptions in life come disguised as good things.



Friends, the greatest way to deceive a society is hide the truth in plain sight and facilitate the normalcy of a holiday that is evil at its origins and its function has not changed. The Bible records that Lucifer himself can manifest as an angel of light hence our need to ensure that what we celebrate is of God of Heaven and not of the god of this world.

## 1) What is the Origin of Halloween?

- a) Samhain, often called Halloween, is an old Celtic festival that is celebrated from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. It was and still is taught and believed that the veil between the spirit world (Spirit Realm) and our realm (realm of our five senses) are closest or as the term is also used, the thinnest, during this time.
- b) The focus was to honor the dead and was celebrated as a time of interacting with spirits that could help predict the future. The people who participated with this holiday would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.
- c) During this festival time frame of October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, they celebrated when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Celtic priests to make predictions about the future.

- d) For a people entirely dependent on the natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort during the long, dark winter.
- e) Later, in Ireland, people wore costumes and sang songs for the dead at houses, getting cakes in return. Halloween, at its roots, promotes values contrary to Christianity of promoting the emphasis of darkness, death, and fear.
- f) As Christians, our focus should be on developing our faith and our belief in God's love which overcomes fear and drives back darkness. The Church should be the light of the world, and we should shine brightly in a dark world; not hold hands with the darkness we are called to dispel. We trust in the Holy Spirit, not other spirits or the dead.
- g) The Apostle Paul's second letter to the Church at Corinth, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, <sup>14</sup>Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>What accord has Christ with Belial?<sup>b1</sup> Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup>What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>17</sup>Therefore go out from their midst, and be



separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, <sup>18</sup>and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

h) With this text in mind, I must ask you the following question: what fellowship does light have with darkness? What agreement should we as the temples of the holy spirit have with idols?

## 2) What is the Historic Connection between Halloween and the Church?

- a) By 43 A.D., the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the 400 years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.
- b) The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees.
- c) The symbol of Pomona is the apple, and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain explains the tradition of bobbing for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.
- d) In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween.

- e) Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities that are known in the United States like trick-or-treating, carving pumpkins, gatherings, costumes, and eating food.
- f) By the 9th century, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands, where it gradually blended with older Celtic rituals. In 1000 A.D., the church made November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead.
- g) It's widely believed today that the church at that time was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, church-safe holiday. All Souls' Day was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes as saints or angels.
- h) The All Saints' Day celebration was also called All-hallows meaning All Saints' Day and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, began to be called All-Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.
- i) From early on, the church celebrated All Saints Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The night before became "All-Hallow E'en." Over time, Halloween became darker and focused more on fear. Today, Paganism and witchcraft practices are growing at an astonishing rate.
- j) Some things can't be changed; they must be removed or identified as a different name. Sound familiar? We no longer allow people to identify as who they are genetically but by who or what they say.

- k) Church family, Halloween has not been redeemed for God. It's darker today than it was before. As a Christian, every day is holy to the Lord. I chose to rejoice in God and give no place to the devil.
- l) So again I ask you, what fellowship does light have with darkness? What agreement should we as the temples of the holy spirit have with evil spirits?

### 3) Regarding Halloween and its practices, is it evil or harmless?

- a) As the beliefs and customs of different ethnic groups and the American Indians meshed, the American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included "play parties," which were public events held to celebrate the harvest. Neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance and sing.
- b) Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds. By the middle of the 19th century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country.
- c) Young women believed that on Halloween they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn or mirrors.

- d) In the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing the Irish Potato Famine, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween in the continental United States.
- e) Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that has now morphed into today's "trick-or-treat" tradition.
- f) On Halloween, when it was believed that ghosts came back to the earthly world, people thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by these ghosts, people would wear masks when they left their homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits.
- g) On Halloween, to keep ghosts away from their houses, people would place bowls of food outside their homes to appease the ghosts and prevent them from attempting to enter.
- h) In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers than about ghosts, pranks and witchcraft.
- i) At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season, and festive costumes.

- j) The following is a quote from a dear church member and friend, Mrs. Lisa Townsend, who is a mighty intercessor and prophetic gift to this house stated the following and I quote, “Halloween means more than candy and costumes to those in witchcraft. As a former witch, now a devoted Christ follower, my heart is to please my King - not to ride the fence and hurt Him in any way.”
- k) Lisa went on to state, “Wiccans have eight holidays, with Halloween (Samhain) being their main holiday. Some people involved in witchcraft say Halloween is significant to them. John Ramirez, once a top satanic priest, even married on that day, showing its importance to them as their most significant day.”
- l) Anton LaVey, author of The Satanic Bible and founder of the Church of Satan “Two major holidays, Halloween and Walpurgisnacht, are celebrated by the Church of Satan. I am glad Christian parents let their children worship the devil at least one night out of the year. Welcome to Halloween.”
- m) So again I ask you, what fellowship does light have with darkness? What agreement should we as the temples of the holy spirit have with evil spirits?

#### 4) Should Christians participate and be involved in celebrating

#### Halloween?

- a) Paul's last letter to his son in the faith Timothy, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."
- b) Church family, in all purity and earnest, I have presented this message to you today. As your Pastor and as the Senior Pastor of this church, I have a duty to strive, in all manners, as much as it lies within me to protect you, to guard over you, lead you, and to minister the Word of God to you to the best of my ability.
- c) With that said, I have presented the best possible message to present the truth of a holiday that I do not believe should have any course of connection nor kindred of those who are of Christ.



- d) Celebrating Halloween is conforming to the culture and embracing a day that owes its genesis to occultism and celebrates darkness. We, the Church, are here to transform culture for God's glory and not conform to it nor be accepting of something that is birthed in darkness.
- e) We must not make the mistake of Solomon; we must not be willing to embrace something that is evil on the grounds of tolerance.
- f) Some may say, "But if we don't celebrate Halloween, the world will think we are weird and don't know how to have fun." Friends, we are called to change the world, not to conform to the world. We are in this world but not of it. We engage in the culture to change it, but we are commanded not to imitate it.
- g) Halloween is having fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness and I can not put my stamp of approval on it as your Pastor much less as a clergyman and I am doing my best to warn you and guard you. We receive benefits from God by taking heed to His warnings; even if we don't fully understand or even agree. Our opinions are moot when His Word gives us a command.
- h) The truth of the matter is that Activities people engage in while celebrating Halloween do not honor the Lord. Dressing up as a witch or demon is not becoming a Christian; and especially when you are dressing your children up as these noted evils.

- i) Many people do wrong things like drinking, drugs, and sexual promiscuity during Halloween. Church, there is a spirit of confusion that is manifest in our world and people are already confused about who they are.
- j) Dressing up as someone else on Halloween adds to this confusion. Identity is important and if our identity is in Christ, it should not include the embracement of paganism or occultism in any form as an extension of our identity by celebrating something that is unholy as a Holiday.
- k) So again I ask you, what fellowship does light have with darkness? What agreement should we as the temples of the holy spirit have with evil spirits? It is time to renounce darkness and step into His Marvelous Light!