

The image is a vertical poster for a Halloween-themed book. The top half features the title 'HALLOWEEN' in a large, black, serif font, with the word 'UNMASKED' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. The background is a sepia-toned photograph of a pumpkin patch at sunset. In the foreground, a large pumpkin is carved into a jack-o'-lantern with a wide, toothy grin and glowing orange eyes. In the background, several children are silhouetted against the bright sky, some holding baskets, suggesting a trick-or-treat scene. Several bats are flying in the sky above the children. The overall mood is nostalgic and festive.

HALLOWEEN

UNMASKED

Apples of Gold Series
by: Helen Toews



*Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like
apples of gold in settings silver. . .*

Dear Reader,

Apples of Gold is a series of small booklets written for the purpose of stimulating a person's thinking in areas that they may not as yet explored. These are not comprehensive, theological, exhaustive works. They are meant to bring some Scriptural understanding and to provoke the reader to further personal study.

Having taught Bible Studies for many years I watched as video and social networking are replacing books and personal relationships. Young people (and the young at heart) for the most part, no longer curl up with a book or visit libraries. They get information from predigested news programs and the shock and awe of Internet browsing. I personally believe there is great value in these new opportunities and it is a great research tool. It has broadened our scope in many areas. However, sometimes we don't even know the questions to ask to grow into the deeper things of God.

Apples of Gold Series booklets are an opportunity for readers to have a product that will be helpful to launch personal research as well as a stimulus for group discussion. In some cases it will give answers to questions that have been 'shelved' for lack of time or opportunity. At other times I hope to challenge your curiosity to do your own search for answers. These booklets are a quick read and they are meant to be just that.

I hope you will enjoy exploring these topics and that they will be a spring board to not just further your study of the Scriptures, but especially, for you to get to know the Lord in a deeper and a more meaningful way.

Join me in living a Presence driven life – on purpose.

With love, Helen



HALLOWEEN UNMASKED

Halloween is an increasingly controversial subject and it can become a difficult time for many Christians, especially those with children. The pressure in North America in particular to participate in Halloween is extreme.

According to Barna Research, Halloween is currently the 3rd biggest, most celebrated event, after New Years Eve and the Super Bowl in the US. It is a 2.4 billion dollar industry; 85% of households decorate for this day compared to 80% for Christmas.

A closer look, will reveal that the seemingly “harmless” involvements associated with Halloween might also be “entries” for the occult that can prove tragic for those participating.

“The modern holiday that we call Halloween has its origins in the full moon closest to November 1st, the witches’ new year. It is a time when the spirits (demons) are supposed to be at their peak power and revisiting planet earth... Halloween is purely and absolutely evil, and there is nothing we ever have, or will do, that would make it acceptable to the Lord Jesus.”

Tom Sanguinet, a former high priest in Wicca

Halloween is a religious day, but it is not Christian. No matter what spin is put on it as we hear, “it’s just-for-fun”, “it’s just dress-up”, and statements of that nature, it is actually a dangerous time, and can open doors to demonic influence in your home.

In ancient times in countries like Ireland, Scotland and Britain, the Celtic festival of Samhain was observed on October 31st. It marked the ending of one season and the beginning of the next. November 1st began their new year and was one of the most important calendar festivals of the Celtic calendar. They celebrated by participating in the occult arts and rituals.

The Druids were the priestly class of the Celtic religion. The Druids believed that on October 31st, the night before the day that began their New Year, was the day that Samhain, the Lord of Death, gathered the souls of the evil dead who had been condemned and they could now enter the bodies of animals.

For thousands of years, Druid priests have conducted diabolical worship ceremonies in which animals as well as human beings were used in sacrifice. As they were captured, these folk were stuffed into cages and then burned to death. They believed these sacrifices were required to appease Samhain and keep the spirits from harming them. Many Druid beliefs and practices were similar to those of Hinduism; they believed and taught reincarnation, the transmigration of the soul and believed people might be reborn as animals.

Druids believed the souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on this day. The holiday progressively took on a sinister significance with ghosts, witches, black cats, fairies and demons being added.

Halloween in its present form was not celebrated until the 20th century in North America when Irish Catholic immigrants introduced a mixture of Roman and Druid ceremony to it. Halloween ultimately became a secular observance, and customs like pumpkin carving, dressing up in costumes and going to neighbours for ‘treats’ became popular.

Jack-o-lantern – Carving pumpkins has many different legends. One belief is that it comes from the tradition of witches’ that use a skull with a candle inside to light the way to coven meetings.



Then there is the story of Irish Jack, or Stingy Jack as he was called. He evidently was a miserable, old drunk who liked to play tricks on everyone. One day, he tricked the Devil into climbing up an apple tree. Once the Devil climbed up the apple tree, Stingy Jack hurriedly placed crosses around the trunk of the tree. The Devil was then unable to get down. Stingy Jack made the Devil promise him not to take his soul when he died. Once the devil gave his word, Stingy Jack removed the crosses and let the Devil down.

Legend has it when Jack finally died; he went to the Pearly Gates of Heaven and was told by Saint Peter that he was too mean and too cruel and he was not allowed to enter. He then went down to Hell and the Devil kept his promise and would not allow him to enter Hell. Now, Jack had nowhere to go but to wander about in the darkness – trapped between Heaven and Hell. When he asked the Devil how he could leave, as there was no light, the Devil tossed him an ember from the flames of Hell to help him light his way. Jack placed the ember in a hollowed out stolen turnip, which he then carried around with him. From that day onward, Jack roamed the earth without a resting place, lighting his way as he went with his, you guessed it - “Jack-O-Lantern”.

On All Hallow’s Eve as it is also called, the Irish hollowed out turnips, rutabagas and gourds. They placed a light in them to keep evil spirits away.

In the 1800’s a couple of waves of Irish immigrants came to America. The Irish immigrants quickly discovered that pumpkins were bigger and easier to carve out so they used pumpkins for lanterns.

Another story says that Jack-O-Lanterns may also have its origin in the candle-lit pumpkin or skull, which served as a signal to mark those farms and homes that supported the Druids’ religion. The World Book Encyclopedia says: **“The apparently harmless lighted pumpkin face of the Jack-O-Lantern is an ancient symbol of a damned soul.”**

Incredibly, the customs of celebrating actually grew while human and animals were sacrificed in agony and burnt to death. The Druids and their followers would dress in costumes made of animal skins and heads. They would dance, chant and jump through the flames in the hope of warding off evil spirits. To obtain these sacrifices, Druid priests would go from house to house asking for fatted calves, black sheep and even human beings. Those who gave were promised prosperity, and those who refused to give, were threatened and cursed.

This is the origin of “trick or treat”, dressing up, and going door-to-door begging for treats.



What about black cats? In Druid beliefs, they actually represent Shape Shifters - demons that change shapes to fit the situation they are in.

Halloween has, and continues to become, a “crossover.” An involvement in which innocent games, dress-up and carving pumpkins, can lead to serious entanglement with real witches, neo-pagans, New Agers, and other occultists.

A common pastime at parties is the use of a Ouija Board game to attempt to use spirits to get answers to questions. This can lead to serious consequences including demon possession. (The movie The Exorcist is an actual case study of a possession that is a result of this game.)

Party games with crystal balls, tarot cards, divining, mediums and horoscopes – all are open doors – entries to demonic activity and popular games that folk play at Halloween gatherings.



Whether a person participates innocently or with purpose, demons have a great interest in Halloween. These activities open spiritual doors that support the occult activity. They also offer legal entry for demonic opportunities to control and influence people. This open door to the occult can introduce forces into people's lives that they are not equipped to combat. The big deception is to think that it is harmless.

There is genuine power in the occult, and it is demonic. Ignorance to this is not a safety valve any more than a person who does not understand how gravity works decides that it would be 'fun' to jump off a cliff. There are spiritual laws in effect when you welcome occult activity the same way as the natural law of gravity is in effect when you jump off a cliff. Both can have destructive results when entered into ignorantly and foolishly.

Other more obvious types of occult involvement include: mediums, channeling, clairvoyants, psychics, spiritists, diviners, mystics, gurus, shamans, psychical researchers, Yogis, psychic and holistic healers, astral travel, astrology, mysticism, Ouija boards, UFOs, and many more. Occultism religions include Satanism, astrology, Kabbalah, Gnosticism, theosophy, witchcraft and involve forms of magic.

A serious study of Biblical demonology will reveal Satan as the power behind the occult. (see Apples of Gold – Demons and Other Fallen Foe) Playing with witchcraft, necromancy, channeling, horoscopes, even in game format, the Word of God makes it clear that they are an abomination to the Lord.

The spiritual power and reality behind the occult involves demons. The Bible commands us to refuse to participate in all occult practices. Mediums and Spiritists are expressly prohibited. Nowhere in the Word of God are such practices acceptable and nowhere is it ok to participate even if you call it 'fun' or just a game.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Hosea 4:6 KJV My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

What law had the people forgotten? Deuteronomy 18:9 -12 KJV

9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after (to imitate NSAB) the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to **pass through the fire**, or that **useth divination**, or **an observer of times**, or **an enchanter**, or **a witch**. 11 **Or a charmer**, or **a consulter with familiar spirits**, or **a wizard**, or **a necromancer**. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

1. **to pass through the fire** – To experience many difficulties or dangers in order to achieve something.
2. **that useth divination**, The art or act of foretelling future events or revealing occult knowledge by means of augury or an alleged supernatural agency - An inspired guess or presentiment. – something that has been divined.
3. **or an observer of times**, The occult practice of astrology – observing the times by the study of the positions and aspects of celestial bodies in the belief that they have an influence on the course of natural earthly occurrences and human affairs. An example that many follow are their horoscopes.
4. **or an enchanter**, - One who practices magic or sorcery
5. **or a witch**. One claiming or popularly believed to possess magical powers and practice sorcery. A believer or follower of Wicca; a Wiccan.
6. **or a charmer**, One who casts spells; an enchanter or magician.

7. **or a wizard**, One who practices magic; a sorcerer or a magician

8. **or a consulter of familiar spirits** - a form of communication with spirits. It is a practice in religious beliefs such as Spiritualism, Spiritism, Espiritismo, Candomblé, Louisiana Voodoo, Shambala and Umbanda.

9. **or a necromancer**. - The practice of supposedly communicating with the spirits of the dead in order to predict the future.

10. 'For all that do these things are **an abomination unto the LORD: Abomination**: A thing that causes disgust or hatred. A feeling of hatred. Synonyms: abhorrence – loathing – disgust – repugnance

More Scriptural references:

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 "And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

2 Corinthians 7:1 "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Jeremiah 10:2 "Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them."

Galatians 5:19-20 "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,"

1 Cor. 10:20, 21 "No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."

Ephesians 4:27 "and do not give the devil an opportunity."

Leviticus 20:27 "A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them"

Deuteronomy 12:30 "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise"

Celebrating Halloween is participating in the occult practices of paganism. Celebrating witchcraft, and being in harmony or agreement with this holiday celebrates cruelty, and dabbling in a 'day of death' celebration. No matter how bullied we are by school celebrations, friends, family, kids, and those who would disagree, we should not participate.

No Christian should take part in celebrating Halloween.

We are in a spiritual war over this celebration. Every Halloween many thousands of animals and, even people, are still sacrificed in satanic rituals worldwide.

Millions of other people, including well meaning Christians, participate in Halloween celebrations. Halloween is a prime recruiting time for witches and Satanists. They are after the children – impressionable young minds and hearts –our children. Is it any shock then that people have testified that they were introduced to the occult at a Halloween party?

Halloween is one of many human traditions that cloud Biblical teachings and keep people in the dark from God's truth. The truth that can set us free (John:8:32)

It is not a harmless holiday. God hates sin and He is not mocked (Galatians 6:7) What a person sows, he will reap. When we dabble in the spirit world of Satan and his demons, we have made a choice to make God in our own image instead of honouring Him and His Word!

This trick is no treat!

Satan's MO (method of operation) is to steal, kill and destroy.
(John 10:10)

"Those who have the youth have the future" Adolph Hitler

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

In our home we stopped celebrating Halloween (over 35 years ago) and we allowed the Word to become the truth in our family's life. We celebrated for a few years 'innocent' and 'ignorant' of the dangers and it was at the time that people began cruel 'jokes' on kids treats, putting pins and razors into apples – hard to imagine but true.

We did the whole circular reasoning process – no demonic costumes, just fun ones, giving out Christian tracts with the treats, one year we even gave out tooth brushes; thereby, making Halloween in our house – nice!

When we finally took a true Biblical stand, it was four against two. Four children around a table can be intimidating and there were some tears. However, by the time we shared our decision and the Word, we had a couple of nods, one ok, and tears were gone.

It also helped that we made Halloween a family night. We made a family decision to lock up the house, turn off the lights so our neighbours knew that we were not participating, and to go out for the evening. The children would choose a movie – we went out for pizza – and the piece d’ resistance was that they could select any treats that they wanted at the store. The largest chocolate bars and bags of Smarties flew off the shelf. . . supplying treats for 4 young people was still much cheaper than supplying the neighbourhood.

We also realized the hypocrisy of saying to our children, “Don’t take anything from a stranger” – then sending them begging to stranger’s doors for candy. That decision stood the test of time. It is distressing to see the continued strong pull on Christians to the reasoning that this event is without harm or consequence.

As parents it can be confusing as to how to deal with the pressures surrounding Halloween. Creating constructive alternatives can be challenging.

Understanding what the Word of God says is our first and most important step to taking a stand on this subject. We need a strong standard raised. Even though many churches will not address the occult – know that God takes it very seriously.

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR “... teach my people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.” **Ezekiel 34:23**

“Train up a child in the way he should go, then when he is old he will not depart from it.” **Proverbs 22:6**

“That whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone was hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” **Matthew 18:6 – 7**
“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” **Romans 12:9**

“Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the Armour of Light.” **Romans 13:12**

“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s Table and of the table of demons.”

1 Corinthians 10:21

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? What communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? For what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?... Therefore, come out from among them and be separate says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you.”

2 Corinthians 6:14 – 17

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

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the Faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies and hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.” **1 Timothy 4:1– 2**

“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.”
3 John 11

Applying the Scriptures means that we have a responsibility to share with our children in a way that they understand. The following may help you to answer the questions or respond to pleas from your young people. Here are some things you may hear and some personal responses and rationale that have helped our children to understand and to get through these times when we have communicated them.

People may say to you, “There is no harm in dressing up”.

Actually, that is only partially right. There is no harm in dressing up – pretending – using your imagination, if it is ‘sanctified’ to the Lord. That word sanctified means that it is set apart for a purpose.

In this case, when we talk about Halloween, dressing up says that you are setting yourself aside for the purpose of giving your attention to, and participating in something that is not God’s will and something that He cannot bless.

Good or evil, when the intention of the action is to celebrate something not ‘sanctified’ by God, we move away from His blessing and protection. There is a very real spirit realm of Satan’s servants that see what is being celebrated and they are happy to be part of your activities.

We cannot bless what God has cursed. For instance, when a child dresses up as a ghost, that child actually represents a demon spirit. Ghosts are not disembodied dead people who are roaming about the earth in search of their souls; nor are they people as portrayed in the movie Ghost. They are apparitions and they are demonic in nature. Again, costumes like skeletons portray death, as do ‘jack-o-lantern’ masks and the like.

When a person participates with darkness, they give place to the spirits of that realm to have a place in their own lives.

What you give your attention to, you will enable.

Introducing the occult by way of games, artifacts and activities are actual open doors into your home and an invitation to the occult. It is not unusual for nightmares to cease, peoples behavior to change, atmospheres to become peaceful when objects like amulets, demonic symbols, new age music, books, statues of gods etc. are cleaned out of the home and the persons involved have repented from agreeing with the enemy in those areas and asking the Lord to come in to their lives.

The movie ‘The Exorcist’ was written from an actual case study of a child (a young boy) who was playing with a Ouiji board and became demonically possessed. It is not a game. The demonic world is real and looks for someone to participate with the realm of darkness and with any activities that welcome them into a life.

The play of dressing up for Halloween can be an innocent entry to a child’s future choices. Endorsing cute fairies and ghosts when they are young gives them license to participate in ‘parties’ when they are older where ‘dress up’ is more sophisticated and games at those ages are unsupervised.

Parties are some of the places that the game versions of Ouija boards, medium games, tarot cards, and other activities are introduced. These are all entries to the person in the spirit world.

Romans 13:12 “put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Ephesians 6:11-18 “take your stand against the devil’s schemes

Parents - We need to make sure that these games are not part of any children’s party celebrations in homes as well as in the classrooms whether it is Halloween or other gatherings. The occult ‘just for fun’ activities are not acceptable. These are doors opened in the spirit realm for both good and evil.

3 John 1:11—“do not imitate what is evil”

There were two trees in the garden. In Genesis we read that the Lord placed two trees in the garden. One was the Tree of Life, the other the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were directed only to eat of one and that was the Tree of Life. The other tree however looked good and they ate of it. They went the way many of us still do at the moment of decision – to do what feels good! We often justify our cravings so that evil will actually seem good. The Lord made it very clear in the garden that good was not always God.

Many Christians will tell you that Halloween can be sanctified and redeemed to make it good. It actually has no redemptive qualities. Evil itself is disguised as good and harmless but the consequences are the same as when Adam and Eve sinned. When man ate from the wrong tree that ‘looked good’ it brought separation from God – so does participating in something that the Lord has made very clear is evil.

A small child does not see the future ramifications of their

innocent actions in play and if the parent endorses it when they are young the child has a harder time seeing the truth when they are older.

We would not knowingly allow our young children to participate in occult activities. Yet, we position them to their future choices by not giving them understanding and most importantly, the courage to stand against evil when they are young. Parents have the responsibility to help them understand and to make Godly choices from birth.

A parent who understands that a television program or a book is going to feed poison to the mind of their child would never allow it to be seen or read. It is interesting, however, that our cultural practices like Halloween are an effective way to desensitize thinking and beliefs. . . . all because our children are given over to it as play.

Our North American culture has an incredible ability to beautify something ugly, to make it fun and to give it a ‘make over’ to fit our own paradigms. The reality of Witchcraft or Satanism is too overtly scary if we saw it in it’s true form and it would immediately be rejected by a sober and sane mind. However, making it over to be portrayed as innocent, will capture the minds of most of our society. This is happening in our daily lives; not just on Halloween.

“The magical occult practices of the ancients aren’t just for the ancients. The spirits involved are eternal beings, and they are just as active today as they were a thousand years ago, as is their worship.... The toys children play with depict powerful creatures of the darkness. Now, games give explicit instruction in the rituals and methods of the occult. Indeed, gaming tournaments are prime times for occultists to find ‘recruits’ with exceptional ability.”

N.R.K.

Harry Potter is a prime example of witchcraft repackaged to get an entire generation hooked on the occult. The story began seemingly innocent and then became more and more overtly evil – no longer hiding the spells and intentions of witchcraft as the series went along. Children and parents all argued intensely to the innocence of the books.

The coat of Hogwarts, representing the four Houses (Slytherin, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, Gryffindor) is inscribed with the school's motto, which translates, "never tickle a sleeping dragon".

Many Christians have been hoodwinked into thinking this work of fiction is completely harmless. The series, on a closer look, is doing great harm. Steeped in the occult, it also portrays parents and authority figures as ignorant, intolerant and uninformed. Shape shifters, wizardry, spells and the like, teach that by natural means we may become supernatural. Instead of a generation being offered Biblical truth, the supernatural format of this series is actually steering the true prophetic gifts of children and their potential away from God.

It was indeed a 'sleeping dragon.' It has been given a life of its own to affect an entire generation of children as well as to deceive adults.

Then, there is the Twilight series – vampires in love! This cannot possibly be Christian entertainment? It is shocking how many are justifying this truly sick and evil concept – calling it a love story and endorsing it as good reading!

From Karen Rosenthal, Children's Department Manager for R.J. Julia Booksellers (printed in Publisher's Weekly's "Galley Talk")
"I'm not usually a vampire book reader, but I haven't read a book in a long time that had as much sexual tension and creepy terror

throughout as Twilight by Stephenie Meyer. The main character is extremely compelling. The protagonist is so consumed with her crush on him that she blocks everything else, and the fact that he's a vampire adds a whole other level. It really is the perfect crossover book. It will appeal to kids who read fantasy and darker books, but also kids who like more realistic fiction like Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, and all those kids who read Gossip Girl... It's a riveting action book but thoughtful as well. Sometimes teen books can be plot-driven and the quality of the writing goes out the window, but this one has both."

The concept of vampires in the past would have caused fear in people. Recently, vampires have been turned into a hero, not villainous cruel predators.

Vampires, by legend, suck blood from their victims to gain life. It leaves their victim weak and vulnerable. One of the ways that these legends teach to kill or capture one of these (vampires) is to drive a stake through his chest.

In stark comparison – Jesus loved us so much that He gave His blood for us so that our sins would be forgiven. He died on a 'stake' (cross) to give us eternal life. His shed blood took our sins bought our forgiveness.

The precision and delicacy of Meyer's writing lifts this wonderful novel beyond the limitations of the horror genre to a place among the best of YA fiction."
(Young Adult - Ages 12 and up) -- Patty Campbell

Take a look through a weekly TV program guide – there is not one day that does not give opportunity for our children to be desensitized and get their hearts more and more established in what the Lord says is an abomination.

Television and movies have also glorified and made witches that at one time were considered ugly and evil to be welcomed as the proverbial 'girl next door'.

Makeovers like: 'Sabrina, The Teenage Witch' – 'Buffy, The Vampire Slayer' – 'Bewitched' (the movie and TV show) and many more have captured the hearts of a generation to call evil good. You can watch the reruns and the others such as – 'Teen Wolf', 'Alien Invasion', 'The Walking Dead'. . . .and that is just Sunday night.

Recently horrified, I saw daytime advertising glorifying and introducing Incubus and Succubus – two different shows.

Incubus and Succubus are demons who have sexual powers and watching them via our televisions is a gateway to our homes for both of these to operate. One is assigned to women; the other to men. Most parents don't see what their children are watching. These programs are a seductive entry to your children's minds and will program their choices to life decisions.

They are NOT harmless entertainment.

Do not overlook board games, card collections, and role-playing video games as harmless fun. We have come a long way from calling them names such as "Dungeons and Dragons" which would give most parents an overt clue to the dangers. Games are now

disguised as good or cute, and have names like: 'The Binding of Isaac or, 'Pokeman'. Pokeman (translated means – pocket monster) doesn't sound too bad does it? Others are more sophisticated formulas for occult knowledge.

Note on Binding Isaac: (story line from web site Giant Bomb) Isaac's mother was always a religious woman, so when she

became seriously mentally ill and started hearing voices, she believed that it was God speaking to her, and in an attempt to cleanse her innocent son of his "sins," she stripped away his toys and clothes and confined him to his bedroom. But the voice insisted that was not enough and she must sacrifice her son in order to prove her love for him. Isaac manages to escape to the house's previously hidden basement, which is infested by horrible creatures and other shadowy things, but in order for Isaac to truly escape this nightmare and regain his happiness, he must confront his mother once and for all.

Innocent title? A not so innocent game.

The Egyptian-based dark realm of 'Yu-Gi-Oh' is hugely popular. "Most of the incarnations of the franchise involve the fictional trading card game called Duel Monsters (originally known as Magic & Wizards), where each player uses cards to "duel" each other in a mock battle of fantasy "monsters". We will sometimes need to do a bit of research on the toys and games that are captivating our children's minds and hearts." (Wikipedia)

Are we seeing aliens as friendly characters? Are we making friends with the dark side? Would a child (or adult for that matter) know the difference if one really appeared to them or would they participate with their schemes?

Some of you now are thinking . . . she has gone too far!

Actually I see the plumb line between good and evil as very clear. Books like 'Lord of the Rings', 'The Narnia Series' are two good examples of sanctified imaginings. These stories are wonderfully imaginative, strange characters et all however, good and evil are not confused. Good is portrayed as good, evil as evil.

The problems arise for children's discernment when evil is portrayed as good such as the Harry Potter series and vampires in love as we have already discussed.

And what does it have to do with Halloween? Have we lost focus here? Check the streets at Halloween; there is a good bet that you will see children choosing costumes that also celebrate the dark side of these genres.

We began with Halloween being as the focus and you may think I have become sidetracked.

It is difficult to separate these subjects because one feeds the other. This is just a brief snapshot of some programs, films, toys and games that vie for our children's attention. Parents, please check it out for your self!

These areas actually are on task with the subject of Halloween. Just look out your door and check the costumes. The children will be pretending to be all sorts of evil from ghosts and goblins, vampires and fairies, Harry Potter and the like.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22—"Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."

James 1:27—"keep oneself from being polluted by the world"

Romans 12:9—"abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."

"Video games producers are getting smarter. They lead you to sites where you can be instructed by a real life occultist. You talk to hardcore people."

Peter Lanz, a former member of the occult
Order of the Golden Dawn

Ephesians 5:11 Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

So, what would be a Halloween alternative?

We could celebrate the Reformation! October 31, 1517, Martin Luther drove a stake into the heart of many of the prevailing non-Biblical concepts by nailing his famous 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

This event began the movement known today as the Reformation. He actually did this on Halloween. His bold challenge against the un-biblical practices of the Church of Rome inspired the Protestant Reformation. All Bible believing churches could be celebrating the greatest revival of faith and freedom ever!

The Reformation was one of the single most important turning points in modern world and church history. It began the most extraordinary spiritual Revival!

This could be a time to share the Gospel with our friends and neighbours who would otherwise be participating in occult activities.

Harvest Festivals - Some Churches offer alternatives to Halloween by having a fun night for the children. Many encourage dressing up in costumes (nothing representing evil) and they make it into an event that the kids can bring un-churched friends and family. Games and treats make the evening fun and a very popular.

There are many creative ways to capture the hearts of children without putting them in danger. We need to train up the spirit of our children and not let the schools and present culture be the influence. If your child is brought up in the truth, they will run from evil. **Ephesians 5:11-12** “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness” / “live as children of light” **1 Timothy 4:1** “don’t follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” **2 Corinthians 6:14-17** “what fellowship can light have with darkness?”

Explaining your beliefs to teachers and other adults in your child’s life is also part of the protection. We recognize that it is important in the classroom to help children socialize and make friends. However, there are many other ways that a school could have a fun time without using Halloween’s antics and endorsing this event.

Harvest festivals in schools instead of Halloween? Why not? I encourage parents to be willing to volunteer to help should it be a viable alternative in your child’s school.

“Satan is not simply trying to draw people to the dark side of a good versus evil conflict. Actually, he is trying to eradicate the gap between himself and God, between good and evil altogether.”

Ray Yungen, A Time of Departing

What can we do?

My personal choice is to make Halloween a time to spend with your family. Include other friends and make it a time that would be enjoyable to all – something fun such as bowling, roller skating, hold a games night, dinner out, etc.

The most important thing is to make sure your young people are reinforced in the Scriptures so that they know what God says about the activities surrounding this holiday. **Ezekiel 44:23** —“... teach my people... to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.” Build them up in the Word and give them courage through prayer and healthy alternatives to stand for Godly principles.

Pray together. Let us not forget that the most powerful weapon Christians have against evil is, **Ephesians 6:10-18** We daily are commanded to: Put on the whole armor of God. . . the Helmet of Salvation, Shield of Faith, Breastplate of Righteousness, Belt of Truth, our feet need to be shod (like putting on shoes) with preparation of the Gospel of Peace. We are to take up the sword of the Spirit (which is the Word of God) and, then to use the most powerful piece – Prayer !

When your young people know that they are wearing this suit of armor, reinforce the fact that when they pull the faceplate down on the Helmet of Salvation, the enemy can’t tell the difference between them and Jesus! **Now that’s dress up!**

If you are reading this and feel convicted that you have given place to the enemy by participating in this celebration please pray:

Heavenly Father, I ask your forgiveness for my ignorance and for not understanding the seriousness of celebrating and participating in Halloween.

Today I respond to your Word and ask for You to reverse the curse that may be operating over my family because of our involvement.

I also ask for You to close any door that is open to the enemies tactics in our home.

Help us to be strong and to use wisdom when sharing our stand with our children, family, friends and our neighbours.

Help us to be people who will not compromise Your Word – standing for the truth of the Gospel and help us to model what You desire of us as Christians in this day and hour.

I declare today like Joshua said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”.

Thank you for Your faithfulness to keep us in Your care.

I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen



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Halloween Unmasked
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HALLOWEEN

UNMASKED

- Learn the origin of Halloween.
- Does it affect our culture today?
- Can playing with crystal balls, tarot cards, divining, mediums, and horoscopes open doors – entries to demonic activity?
- Is it ok for Christians to participate in Halloween?
- How can we open doors for the enemy in our lives?

2 Timothy 4:2-5 "Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (or myths). But you be watchful in all things..."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

If you ask Helen what is the most important focus in her life she would say, "It is to live a Presence driven life on purpose."

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