



HALLOWEEN UNMASKED

Halloween is now in North America the second most popular holiday (after Christmas). Decorations, the sale of candy and costumes is extremely common during this time and it is marketed to children and adults alike. Total spending on Halloween is estimated to be over \$10.6 billion.

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.

As a follower of Christ, it might be a good idea to look a bit more closely at this time. Harmless involvements associated with Halloween may seem harmless but they also may be "entries" for the occult (hidden) that can prove tragic for those participating.

"... 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

“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 . . . “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 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, a priestly class of the Celtic religion, 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, often sacrificed they believed they were required to appease Samhain and keep the spirits from harming them.

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.

Pumpkin carvings creating **Jack-o-lanterns** 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. 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 the tree.

Stingy Jack made the Devil promise him not to take his soul when he died. Once the devil promised not to take his soul, 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 either.

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 the 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".

Pumpkin carving became a bit more sinister.

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. 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 their worship with the hope of warding off evil spirits. To obtain these sacrifices, Druid priests would go from house to house asking for donations for their sacrifices.

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 –

Halloween has and continues to become, a "crossover" 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.

We are learning – what you give your attention to you enable.

A common pastime at parties is the use of a Ouija Board game which is intended 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 these are popular games that folk play at Halloween gatherings.



Whether a person participates innocently, or with purpose, demons have a great interest in Halloween. These 'games' 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 (hidden) practices and ignorance to this is not a safety valve.

There are spiritual laws in effect. When you welcome occult activity the laws work the same way as natural laws - like gravity. Gravity is in effect whether you understand the science or not. If you decide to ignore it or tempt it. Either way, when you jump off a high place you can get hurt. The same with occult practices.

Other more obvious types of occult involvement include: mediums, channeling, clairvoyants, psychics, diviners, mystics, gurus, shamans, astral travel, astrology, and many games that invite the imagination of the participants to embrace evil.

A serious study of Biblical demonology will reveal Satan as the power behind the occult. 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
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
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.
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

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."*

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."*

Celebrating Halloween is participating in the occult practices of paganism. Being in harmony or agreement with this holiday celebrates cruelty, and dabbling in a 'day of death' celebrations. No matter how bullied we are by school celebrations, friends, family, kids, and those who would disagree, we – have a choice.

**When we have understanding of the truth,
we have a responsibility to walk in it.**

We are in a spiritual war over this celebration. Every Halloween many thousands of animals, and even people, are 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 45 years ago) and we allowed the Word to become the truth in our family's life. We had 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 and the like.

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 Biblical stand, it was two against four. 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 people, 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.

“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 reasons that we take the stand that we do in this matter.

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.



No matter how cute it seems

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, participate in, 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, people's 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 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 give 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 more overt evil gets another entry. 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 to us! 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 – the 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 that are an equally 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.

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 occult – 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 (clockwise, starting top right: Slytherin, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, Gryffindor), with the school's motto,

which translates “**never tickle a sleeping dragon**”.

Many people 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 become supernatural.

Instead of a generation being offered 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’ and it has been given a life of its own to affect an entire generation of children as well as to deceive adults

**Current research says 89%
of our children watch witchcraft on TV.**

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!



"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."

From Karen Rosenthal, Children's Department Manager for R.J. Julia Booksellers
(printed in *Publisher's Weekly's* "Galley Talk"):

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 gave His blood for us that we could live in Him; and, He died on a 'stake' (cross) to give us eternal life.

'Cutters' / "Cutting" (people who cut into their flesh for a pain / pleasure release) are growing in epidemic proportions since the popularity of vampire movies.

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."

(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 a daytime advertising that was glorifying and introducing Incubus and Succubus – two different shows.

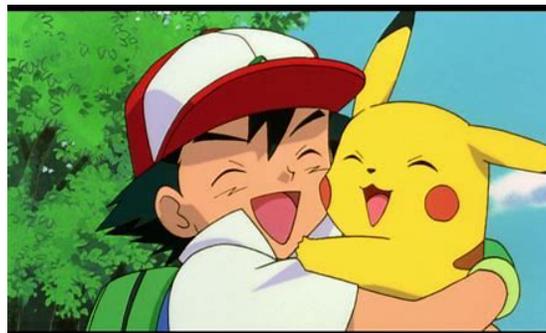
Incubus and Succubus are demons who have sexual powers and watching them via our televisions is a gateway to our homes for both of these to operate.

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 and 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.*

About Yu-Gi-Oh!



Yu-Gi-Oh! is an exciting universe based on a card game played with Monsters, Spells, and Traps. The Yu-Gi-Oh! franchise includes manga series, television series, several video games, the Yu-Gi-Oh!

A TRADING CARD GAME, and more!

This 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*),

“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)

Chapter 6 of Genesis speaks of an unholy union of the fallen angels and women on the earth. Their children are called the ‘Nephilim’ (giants, earthborn) Satan tried to thwart the coming of the Messiah with an intermingling of alien and human seed.

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 al 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.

Sadly, today our movies and television are way ahead of us in so many areas. The Matrix, Star Trek, Star Wars, Inception, Lucy, Avatar etc . . . they actually prophecy to this generation.

We see time travel, appearing and disappearing, remote viewing etc The movies are doing a great job showing us human potential as well as spiritual potential.

I challenge everyone to read the Bible and see that Jesus walked through walls, and operated in miracles. He turned one substance into another, and performed many signs and wonders.

He was transfigured and He made contact with people in another dimension. He saw into the unseen world, had alien as well as angelic encounters and He travelled outside of time and space, and defied natural laws. (Where no man had gone before?)

Best of all, we can see when He saw Father and spoke to Him.

Can you imagine doing that yourself, and experiencing what Jesus and the disciples did? The Bible is written for our encouragement and for us to learn from as our example – better than any movies or television show.

Personally, I think it is far more exciting to live this supernaturally natural life than it is to watch it with those who are pretending.

What if we spent the time and finances to train our children to the real mystical – Godly principles – and if we are going to play-act maybe we could

What about teaching your young people how to Ascend and sanctify their imagination to access the still waters in psalm 23?

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

The following article is from the Winnipeg Free Press – page 25 – August 17, 2012. It is titled, ‘**Yawn of the dead**’ – by line, Liz Braun. It is a review of a new animated ‘stop-motion movie. The article reads:

“Norman (Kodi Smit-McPhee) is a little boy who can speak to ghosts and goblins. He watches TV in the company of his dead granny and chats with her ghost, but his parents think he’s making up stories and his dad is particularly irritated by Norman’s behavior. On the way to school, Norman greets many ghosts by name; not surprisingly, he is teased and bullied at school for this and kids write ‘freak’ on his locker. At school, Norman begins to see strange things under the normal surface of his classmates’ faces.

In the bathroom, the ghost of his deceased uncle (John Goodman) bursts through the toilet to tell Norman that he must hold back the witch’s curse that hangs over their little town. Otherwise, the dead will rise up. Norman’s job is to pry a book out of the dead hands of his uncle’s body and read it at the graveyard at the appointed time. . . . “

Clearly this subject is not losing its appeal and, at this point of our study, this article clearly does not need a commentary.

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 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, are there many other ways that a school could have a fun time without using Halloween’s antics – giving away treats etc.

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

We are culturally at a time where, because our children are so influenced by what their peers think and believe, what films and television show, what schools are teaching that we have to ask the question who is running the show here?

What is influencing our decisions? Are we making independent informed decisions or just going with the flow – letting things ride because busy lives are deferring to the least path of resistance and letting children make unhealthy choices that can actually imprint their minds to a direction that will lead to devastating problems.

What can we do?

My personal choice is to make Halloween a time to spend with your family, maybe 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.”

Pray together.

Ultimately, we can teach our children that they can put on the armor of LIGHT – to put on Christ.

Now that's dress up!

Dear Friend,

Please know that this teaching was not with any intent to bring condemnation of any kind. We all have free will in our choices however, if you are reading this and feel convicted that you have given place to the enemy by participating in this celebration.

We serve a Gracious and Merciful God. He is not looking for ways to punish us – our sin was taken once and for all on the Cross. Run into His arms of Love and listen as He reveals His heart to you. Please pray. . .

Father,

I ask your forgiveness for my ignorance and 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 enemy's tactics in our home.

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

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.

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

I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen