

Should a Christian celebrate Halloween?
(answer from gotquestions.org)

Due to its decidedly pagan origins, the answer to the question as to whether Christians should *celebrate* Halloween is a resounding no. The answer to the question as to whether can Christians *participate* in Halloween activities without compromising their faith is more difficult. Some Christians participate in Halloween simply by dressing up in a costume and having fun, seeing it as innocent and harmless. Other Christians are equally convinced that any form of participation is sinful due to the fact that Halloween is a satanic holiday established to worship evil spirits and promote darkness and wickedness. So, who is right? Is it possible for Christians to participate in Halloween without compromising their faith?

Halloween, no matter how commercialized, has almost completely pagan [origins](#). As innocent as it may seem to some, it is not something to be taken lightly. Christians tend to have various ways to observe or avoid Halloween. For some, it means having an alternative Harvest Party. For others, it is staying away from the ghosts, witches, goblins, etc., and wearing innocuous costumes, e.g., little princesses, clowns, cowboys, super-heroes, etc. Some choose not to do anything, electing to lock themselves in the house with the lights off.

Scripture does not speak at all about Halloween, but it does give us some principles on which we can make a decision. In Old Testament Israel, witchcraft was a crime punishable by death ([Exodus 22:18](#); [Leviticus 19:31](#); [20:6, 27](#)). The New Testament teaching about the occult is clear. [Acts 8:9-24](#), the story of Simon, shows that occultism and Christianity do not mix. The account of Elymas the sorcerer in [Acts 13:6-11](#) reveals that sorcery is violently opposed to Christianity. Paul called Elymas a child of the devil, an enemy of righteousness and a perverter of the ways of God. In [Acts 16](#), at Philippi, a fortune-telling girl lost her

demon powers when the evil spirit was cast out by Paul. The interesting matter here is that Paul refused to allow even good statements to come from a demon-influenced person. [Acts 19](#) shows new converts who have abruptly broken with their former occultism by confessing, showing their evil deeds, bringing their magic paraphernalia, and burning it before everyone([Acts19:19](#)).

So, should a Christian participate in Halloween? Is there anything evil about a Christian dressing up in an innocent costume and going around the block asking for candy? No, there is not. Are there things about Halloween that are anti-Christian and should be completely avoided? Absolutely! If parents are going to allow their children to participate in Halloween, they should make sure to keep them from getting involved in the darker aspects of the day. If Christians are going to take part in Halloween, their attitude, dress, and most importantly, their behavior, should still reflect a redeemed life ([Philippians 1:27](#)). There are many churches that hold "harvest festivals" and incorporate costumes, but in a godly environment. There are many Christians who hand out tracts that share the gospel along with the Halloween candy. The decision is ultimately ours to make in the spirit of [Christian freedom](#). But as with all things, we are to incorporate the principles of [Romans 14](#). We cannot allow our own convictions about a holiday to cause [division](#) in the body of Christ, nor can we use our freedom to cause others to [stumble](#) in their faith. We are to do all things for the glory of God ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)).