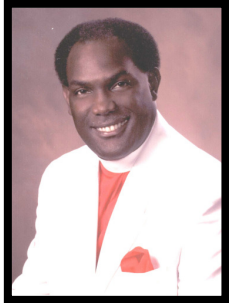


## Ask Bishop Dennison



**Q.** *My family has always celebrated Halloween. I recently overheard some people talking about how evil the day is and I wanted some more information so that I can make an informed decision. Is it evil or not?*

**A.** The origin of Halloween can be traced back to an ancient practice of the pagan religion of the Druids. Their practice was called the “Festival of Samhain – Lord of the Dead.” Samhain is a demon spirit of death. On Halloween night, emphasis is placed on death through the use of such things as coffins, skeletons, ghosts, skulls, etc. It is believed that on Halloween, Satan worshippers observed satanic rituals such as sacrilegious acts, casting spells, and something even more alarming and frightening –human sacrifice.

No Christian can truly deny that Halloween is a bizarre celebration with witches, ghosts, devils, monsters, vampires, superstitions, witchcraft, occult and other evil symbols. Participating in this evil ritual sends a message that Halloween is fun and harmless. Yet, we have witnessed horrifying accounts on this night such as pins, needles, razor blades, and other items being placed in candy.

Some of the common things associated with Halloween such as the black cat have long been associated with witchcraft and superstition. The jack-o-lantern is as the ancient symbol of a damned soul. Trick-or-Treat was born out of a pagan superstition. Christians should have nothing to do with this evil celebration. We should avoid the very appearance of evil and have no fellowship with the works of darkness. I believe that II Corinthians 6:14-17 asks some important questions and then gives us clear instructions. “For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing...”

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