

Take off your mask ...

Celebrate Life!



*"The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy ...,
I have come that they may have life
and have it to the full."*

John 10:10

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Celebrate Life

by Julie Almanrode
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For Jesse and Josi Leigh

I hope this little booklet gives you understanding and insight into the holiday of Halloween and why your parents have chosen not to take part in this celebration. We have also chosen not to celebrate 'alternatives' because there is no 'alternative' to the Truth in the Word of God except for the deceptions of God's enemy, Satan. We pray that God will continue to guide you into making a decision for yourself not to take part in the deeds of darkness, but always be in prayer for those who do walk in darkness and need the Light of the World,

Jesus.

HALLOWEEN

All Hallows Eve or Halloween is October 31. It is a religious holiday celebrated at night. It has been practiced for hundreds of years. People dress up as ghosts, witches, skeletons, and devils. Haunted houses are filled with jack-o-lanterns, black cats, bats, skeletons. Ghosts and witches hide in preparation to frighten adults and children alike.



Children dress in costumes and trick-or-treat from door to door. At each home they expect a “treat” of candy or they play a “trick”.

Decorations hang everywhere from the grocery stores to the malls to the adorning of private homes. These symbols of the holiday are to remind us that Halloween - a celebration of death - is approaching.

“The Holy Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”

1 Timothy 4:1

TRICK OR TREAT?



Lucifer, also known as Satan or the devil, wears a mask. He pretends to be an angel of light. When we put on a costume and/or a mask, we are covering up our true identity. Satan's true identity is a liar, killer, and destroyer of everything God calls good.

"For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."

2 Corinthians 11:14

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light ... of Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:4

"In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

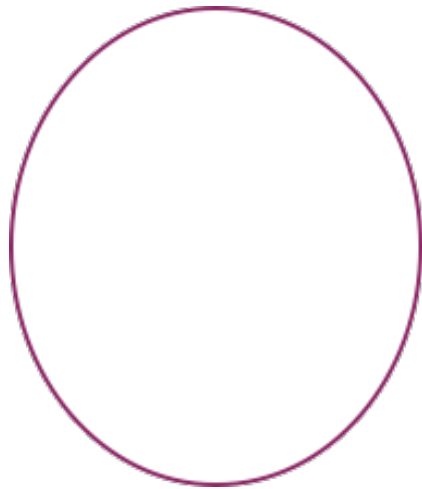
Genesis 2:9

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GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION

Your true identity is a child of God. God put you together inside your mother's womb. You are wonderfully made. Your body is God's temple for His Holy Spirit. Take off your mask and celebrate life.

(Place a picture of your child or children on this page.)



"For we are the temple of the living God."

2 Corinthians 6:16

*"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,
'I am the light of the world.*

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.'"*

John 8:12

JACK-O-LANTERN

There once was a guy named Jack,
Who tricked the devil with such knack,
That when he died he got no slack.
Now his soul has no place to sack
'Cept in a hollow pumpkin - orange and black.

At harvest time in the fall, picking out pumpkins is fun whether you are in a grocery store or at a pumpkin farm. God made some pumpkins big, some small, some speckled, and some without speckles. Some pumpkins make a very good pumpkin pie. But, when we take a pumpkin - God's creation which he called good - and carve out a jack-o-lantern, we mock God and His promise of life forever with him. We all receive eternal rest, but not in the shell of a pumpkin like a wandering or evil spirit.



*“Do not let your hearts be troubled ... in my Father’s house,
there are many rooms ...
I will come back and take you to be with me
that you also may be where I am.”*

John 14:1-3

WITCHES

Some people will dress in black with pointed hats on Halloween. They will appear very scary. They may carry a broom. They may cackle with a weird voice. But, not all witches look and act scary. Some witches look and act silly like Cinderella's fairy godmother or the three fairies, Fauna, Flora and Merryweather from "Sleeping Beauty". Some witches look pretty and act kind like Mary Poppins.



Witches can be boys or girls, men or women. They foretell the future. They cast spells. Remember "Bibbidi bobbidi boo?" They talk to dead people - seances. They play games with evil spirits or demons. God's Word says that a witch should not be allowed to live. Pray for witches on Halloween, their highest holiest day, that they may come to know Jesus and live.

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you, O Lord."*

Psalm 19:14

BLACK CATS

A black cat is commonly considered a “friend of the witch.” The black is a reminder of the darkness that surrounds witchcraft and Halloween. To a witch, the black cat is a “good luck” charm. Sometimes, the black cat will even be used for keeping a channeled dead or demonic spirit.

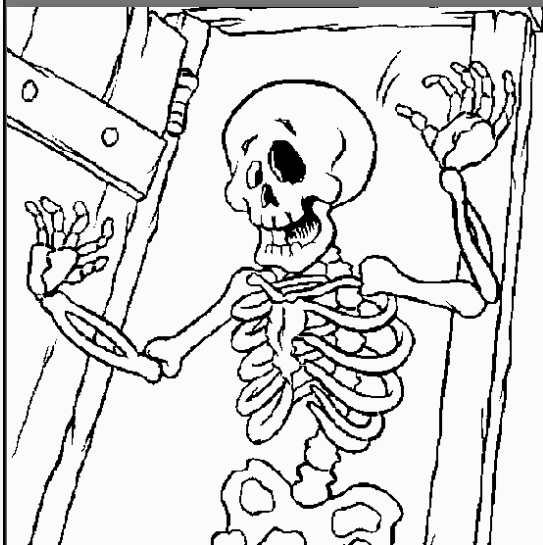


Once again, God created cats and dogs, birds and fish. The black cat as created by God is not evil or bad. But, like the pumpkin, the angel of light, Lucifer, has turned something good of God’s creation into something representing evil and death.

*“All who make idols are nothing,
and the things they treasure are worthless.”*

Isaiah 44:9

SKELETONS



Skeletons are another way to mock or make fun of God and His Word.

Skeletons make you believe that your body will die, rot, and decay and stay that way forever. Though from the dust we came and to the dust we will return, Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the LIFE."*

Flesh and bones, your earthly body, cannot go into heaven, it must die and decay. But, Jesus promises you will get a new body. This is a mystery or something hard to understand. But, your new body will never rot and decay and become like a skeleton. It will live forever with Jesus in heaven.

"The Sovereign Lord can say to these bones: 'I will make breath enter you and you will come to life.'"

Ezekiel 37:4-6

"The trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and the mortal with immortality."

1 Corinthians 15:52

HAUNTED HOUSE

Spiders' webs fill dark halls. Ghosts, witches, bats and skeletons hide in corners. A ghost jumps out and yells, "Boo!" A witch's evil laugh from some hidden place gives you the shivers. The flapping of wings makes you duck from the soaring bat. Tombstones in the yard remind you of dead people. You are frightened.

God doesn't want us to be afraid. He tells us to have nothing to do with the things done in the dark. Jesus wants you to stay away from scary things and thoughts and think on things lovely, pure and true.



"For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret."

Ephesians 5:12

"For God does not give us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love and a sound mind."

2 Timothy 1:9

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HOUSE OF GOD



*"Then the cloud covered the tent of the meeting and
the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle."*

Exodus 40:34

"But the Lord is in His Holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him."

Habakkuk 2:20

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

Psalm 122:1

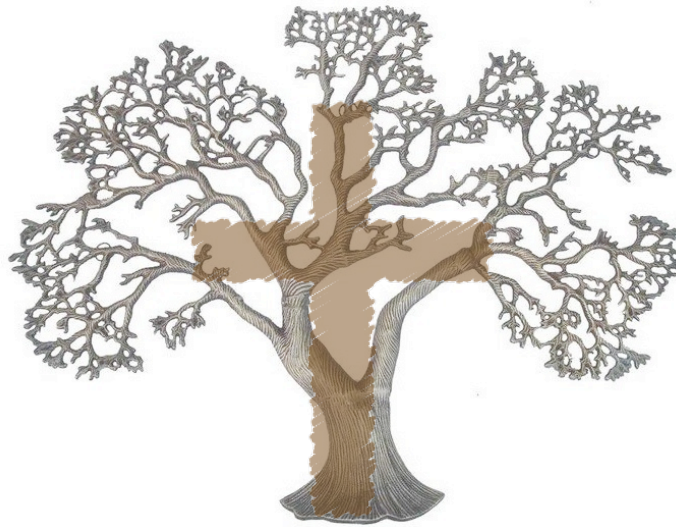
"I will live in the house of the Lord, forever."

Psalm 23:6

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THE TREE OF LIFE

Jesus died on the cross for you and me. This is where you and I must go to receive the gift of life from God the Father. Jesus paid the wages for sin - DEATH - on the cross. We receive the free gift of eternal LIFE because of his death. Jesus also triumphed over every evil power when he died and rose to life so that we could have victory over every evil activity in this world.



“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

Colossians 2:15

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THE TOMB IS EMPTY!



Jesus lives and so can we. Celebrate life!
Celebrate eternal life NOW!!

*“Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?
But thanks be to God!
He gives us victory through our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

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THE DEFEAT OF DEATH

Death has been defeated. As Goliath died by the sting of a stone, death died by the sting of the cross. Anyone who trusts in Jesus and His shed blood on the cross AND His resurrection has no more ties to death or the “celebration of death” - Halloween. Take off your mask, be a child of the living God and celebrate the Way, Truth, Life that He has so graciously given you.



*“...I have come that they may have life
and have it to the full.”*

John 10:10

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“Jesus said, I am the Bread of LIFE.”

John 6:35

*“To him who overcomes
I will give the right to eat from the tree of LIFE.”*

Revelation 2:7

*“But small is the gate and narrow
the road that leads to LIFE ...”*

Matthew 7:14

“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives LIFE.”

John 5:21

“I am the resurrection and the LIFE.”

John 11:25

Celebrate Life!

Make a choice ... *Celebrate Life!*

It's difficult to take a stand against evil in this world, but for the sake of our children, as parents we must take the stand. It is our responsibility before God. The worship of false gods, including witchcraft is growing and Satan is at the center. The Word of God is clear: we will reap what we sow. We must sow to the pure heart that will see God, not to the heart that is neither hot nor cold. The lukewarm heart will be vomited out of Jesus' mouth.

Halloween is the second highest holy day in Satanism (the first is the birthday). Those who celebrate Halloween as a holy day do not celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with or without alternatives. Should we, who claim to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, celebrate Satan's high holy day?

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 describes practices that are detestable to God: *"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to YHVH."*

Contrary to misinterpretation of Scripture, Jesus' death did not change these practices from detestable to acceptable. Every practice involves witchcraft and the evil surrounding it. Either we believe God's Word and the consequences contained in it or we do not. It is a choice to *"come out from among them and be separate"* (2 Cor. 6:17) or to be of the world. Sin always seems fun and exciting, but ultimately leads to death.

Scripture says we are to avoid the appearance of all evil. If we do, we become the Light of the World that Jesus speaks about. If we assimilate

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into the culture of darkness, we lose our brightness and our testimony to the lost. We, like Israel, become as the nations around us and profane the name of YHVH and His Son, Jesus. In the words of Christian culture today, "What would Jesus do?" But, I ask you to search the Scriptures and find out what Jesus would NOT do.

Since writing this in 1990, the world and the evil in it has gone from bad to worse. Television and movies have desensitized us to the seriousness of witchcraft and the evil spiritual realm by glorifying it. Discernment is at an all-time low in the Body of Christ and those professing His LIFE, continue to celebrate a holiday of death with rationalizations and absurd reasonings. Now more than ever, it's time for those who have been called out of darkness, who know the Word, to shine His glorious light of life to the world! Shalom ...

Julie Almanrode