

# BEVERAGES AND BIBLES

**“Some people are born for Halloween, and some are just counting down the days until Christmas.” Stephen Graham Jones**

**This month - Halloween, Evil, and Fun**

**Introduction Question - What is your favorite halloween candy? Favorite/least favorite thing about Halloween?**

**Question: The book, Every Day’s a Holiday observes that Halloween, “probably combines more folk customs the world around than will ever be sorted out, catalogued and traced to their sources.” One custom that we know helped to develop Halloween is the Celtic/pagan festival of the dead (Samhein) Does the history of a holiday change how you celebrate a holiday? (more history is at the end of the discussion guide)**

- “Halloween is a day in which some people choose to wear a mask... while others finally feel safe to take theirs off.” Steve Maraboli
- “Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good.” Gandhi
- “Just as a puppy can be more of a challenge than a gift, so too can the holidays.” John Clayton
- “The fact is, we need markers in life, whether we subscribe to a religion or not. And major holidays, such as Christmas, serve to remind us of the turning world.” Jar Parini
- Do you know why skeletons are so calm? Nothing gets under their skin.

**Question: By the 800s, the influence of the Catholic Church entered into Celtic lands. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV had already designated November 1 All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. Later, the Church would make November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. The eve of All Saints' (All Hallows Eve), All Saints' Day, and All Souls Day were celebrated with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in**

**costumes as saints, angels, and devils. Given this appropriation of an existing pagan festival, does that diminish the observance of All Saints Day today?**

- "What history teaches us is that men have never learned anything from it." G. W. F. Hegel
- "Some conservative churches used to forbid wedding rings. Some forbid Christmas and Easter. They are careful to do what God says, and if God tells them to avoid paganism, then they carefully do it. Some are so careful that they err on the side of forbidding too much — but they err. They make commands about things that God doesn't command. In their desire to avoid one sin, they commit another." Michael Morrison
- A cannibal was late to a potluck. He brought a cold-shoulder.
- "...Acts of appropriation are part of the process by which we make ourselves. Appropriating - taking something for one's own use - need not be synonymous with exploitation. This is especially true of cultural appropriation. The "use" one makes of what is appropriated is the crucial factor." bell hooks

**Question: What does it mean to call something satanic or demonic?**

- "There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan." C.S. Lewis
- "I do not fear Satan half so much as I fear those who fear him" St. Teresa of Avila
- It is said that the theologian Karl Barth was once asked if he believed in Satan, he responded by saying, "Dear God no, I believe in Jesus Christ."
- "Hell is the highest reward that the devil can offer you for being a servant of his." Billy Sunday
- Did you hear what happened to the guy that could pay his exorcist? He was repossessed.

**Question: 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." What role does Satan play, if any, in your spiritual or religious life?**

- "Temptation is not [Satan's] strongest weapon. Despair is." Dennis Garvin
- When we have come to believe in the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, then success, popularity, and power are easily perceived as attractive solutions. The real trap, however, is self-rejection. As soon as someone accuses me or criticizes me, as soon as I am rejected, left alone, or abandoned, I find myself thinking, "Well, that proves once again that I am a nobody." ... [My dark side says,] I am no good... I deserve to be pushed aside, forgotten, rejected, and abandoned. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved." Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence." Henri Nouwen

### More Questions

- When you say something is "evil" or "sinful" what does that mean?
- In the baptism liturgy of the United Methodist Church, people are asked, "Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?" What should this look like in our daily lives?
- If you could wear a halloween costume year round, what would you wear?
- How would you explain this sign to a kid that wanted to trick-or-treat?

**Halloween is not  
accepted by  
Christ**

**The Bible condemns these practices,  
so why do Bible believers celebrate  
them one night of the year?**

@miss\_tiff\_marie

			
<b>Witches</b>	<b>Vampires</b>	<b>Wizards</b>	<b>Ghosts</b>
<b>EXODUS 22:18</b>	<b>LEVITICUS 7:26-27</b>	<b>DEUTERONOMY 18:10-12</b>	<b>LEVITICUS 19:31</b>

**Just say "NO" to Halloween!**

## **More Quotes**

- “I have 3 things I'd like to say today. 1st, while you were sleeping last night, 30,000 kids died of starvation or diseases related to malnutrition. 2nd, most of you don't give a shit. What's worse is that you're more upset with the fact that I said shit than the fact that 30,000 kids died last night.”  
Tony Campolo
- “To counter the evil influence of Halloween, we need to join together and celebrate the reality of the heroic efforts of Christian saints over the evil in their day. Many leaders in the past -- and present -- have fulfilled the mandate of destroying the works of the devil through their sacrificial commitment to Christ and His Kingdom.” Elliot Watson
- “Halloween is a once-a-year opportunity where everyone is out and about. Children with parents in tow are running door to door for the next bit of free candy. The cranky old man turns his porch light on and gives out candy by the handful. Not to mention, somewhere in the neighborhood, there is party happening. What if the Church stopped being afraid of the world on Halloween and began to engage it?” David Valentine

## **Some Halloween History**

Halloween, which means a holy eve, from the Old English all hallow E'en, has roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The outstanding feature of Samhain was the burning of a great fire. Samhain was also a festival of the dead, whose spirits at this season were thought of as scouring the countryside, causing dread to the folk at large. To expel them from the fields and the precincts of villages, lighted brands from the bonfire were carried around the district. Divinations for the fate of the individual throughout the new year were engaged in.

For several days before New Year's Eve (October 31), young boys would travel the neighborhood begging for material to build these massive bonfires. The fires were believed to not only banish evil spirits but rejuvenate the sun.

On this night, evil or frustrated ghosts were also believed to play tricks on humans and cause supernatural manifestations. As part of the celebration, people dressed in grotesque masks and danced around the great bonfires, often pretending they were being pursued by evil spirits. In addition, food was put out to make the ghosts or souls of the good dead Samhain had released feel welcomed and at home. Because Samhain marked the beginning of a new year, an interest in divination (the magic art of interpreting the unknown by interpreting random patterns or symbols) and fortune-telling became an important part of this holiday.