

HALLOWEEN ORIGINS

It began as a pagan holiday. The ancient catholic holiday of All Saints Day was November 1st. It was the day designated for the long-dead "saints" of the Catholic church to be praised and venerated. If the religious crowd was going to have a day for their dead saints, the pagans of the day crafted for themselves a holiday. The night before All Saints Day, All Hallows Eve (or Halloween) would be the time for ghosts, ghouls, and witches to be praised and venerated.

And thus the tradition continues to this day. TV networks run horror flicks; offices have their own Halloween parties and workers even dress in costume for their work day; spook houses and haunted trails dot the roadside where folks pay \$5 to be frightened by costumed creatures.

Christians are confused about Halloween. Should we or shouldn't we allow our children to participate? Frankly, I believe it is parents that must answer this for themselves and their children. Remember, though, that for the vast majority of little goblins and ghouls its all about candy, not ghosts or demons.