

When to Separate from Pagan Holidays (Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Halloween?)

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Should a Christian separate from and refuse to associate with Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter because of the pagan roots that have been historically linked with these holidays? What about Halloween? Is it merely a fun and innocent holiday that we can celebrate as Christians, or should we practice Biblical separation from it, due to its sinister and evil connections with Satan and the world of the occult? Let me simply what the Bible teaches on these matters.

- When the customs, symbols, and holidays CONTINUE to represent darkness (Ephesians 5:11 – “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”).
- When the customs, symbols, and holidays CONTINUE to represent paganism (Jeremiah 10:2 – “Learn not the way of the heathen”).
- When the customs, symbols, and holidays CONTINUE to represent, evil, unrighteousness and Satanism (“what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness? “what concord hat Christ with Belial?” “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord” - 2 Corinthians 6:14-17).
- When the customs, symbols, and holidays CONTINUE to promote worldliness and have no significance to Christ, the Gospel, and Biblical concepts (“And be not conformed to the world” - Romans 12:2).

Since Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter no longer have their historical and pagan significance attached to them and today honor Christ's birth, death, and resurrection, these holidays can be celebrated without violating God's commands of Bible separation. This is because Christ's birth, the cross, and the resurrection are axioms of Biblical teaching and truth. Furthermore, even though they were historically associated with Roman Catholicism in various ways (like Christ Mass) and these holidays were placed on their church calendar, this past association does not cause us to associate, condone, and endorse the religious deception or Roman Catholicism, if we choose to celebrate them.

For instance, Christians who preach against the Mass certainly are not imbibing Roman Catholic dogma if they celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th. Yes, we are to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22), whatever form evil takes, which refers to something that is clearly unbiblical and non-Christian in practice. But we must be careful that we do not carry the "association" command and principle too far. Remember that it's not always possible to abstain from everything that may appear evil to the narrow and foolish judgment of others.

Then too, we know that holidays like Easter or Christmas have long since been disassociated from their pagan significance and influence. Therefore, a Christian can celebrate these holidays if one's conscience allows them to do so (Rom. 14:5). One must understand that celebrating the birth of Christ on Christmas does not mean that we are celebrating the Roman Catholic Mass and promoting the errant teachings of Roman Catholicism. We can celebrate Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter, which are holidays that promote the Biblical truths of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection, while at the same time practice separation from the

ecumenicalism and unbiblical teachings/practices/idolatry of Roman Catholicism (2 Corinthians 6:14-17).

George Zeller commented this way when Christians are overly bent on still finding paganism in the holidays of Easter and Christmas: "Some people who try to find evidences of pagan connections to Easter and Christmas, etc. do not seem to have a problem with many more familiar things which really are derived from paganism. You might have your muffler replaced by Midas, wear shoes designed by Nike, chew Trident gum, or watch a movie by Orion Pictures. Several days of our week and months of our year are named after Norse gods, except for Saturday that comes from the Roman god Saturn, and Sunday and Monday of course. Several months are named after Roman gods. The eight planets and many of their moons are named after Roman deities. Mazda cars are named for a Zoroastrian deity, and many people drive a Saturn, Mercury, Ares, Aurora, etc.

"If we are really concerned about paganism, it might be best to pay attention to the idolatry that might be found in our own hearts (1 John 5:21) and to make sure that there are no 'high places' in our own hearts which we have not torn down."

I think he is right about this as it relates to holidays that have been disassociated from ancient paganism. We should not make a mountain out of a molehill. But what about the holiday of Halloween? How should we view Halloween? It's clear that Halloween still maintains its occult and pagan roots and seeks to glorify Satanism. Therefore, the believer should not seek to promote this particular holiday of darkness. Instead, we are called upon to separate from paganism, darkness, and evil and "touch not the unclean thing" (2 Cor. 6:17). Paul adds in 1 Corinthians 10:20, "I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils"

(demons) through indirectly of directly associating with pagan practices.

We are commanded to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11) by promoting such things as Halloween. Colossians 1:13 declares that Christ has “delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” We are called upon to live in a manner that demonstrates we have been delivered from the ways of the devil and darkness. Instead of trying to mask (disguise) the darkness of this holiday (Halloween) by adding Christian concepts to it, a believer should separate from it entirely and not promote any of its background and imagery.

As separated Christians, we should not add Christian words to the rock sound in order to try and improve it, nor do we wear tattoos and drink alcohol in order to try and reach people with the Gospel. In other words, God has not called us to try and mimic the darkness or make improvements on that which is inherently evil in order to reach others. Isaiah 5:20 declares, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

Separation is the key word – not infiltration (Rom. 12:2). Replacement with godliness is our goal – not duplication of the evil (Titus 2:12). Since the demonic holiday of Halloween is still filled with darkness and Satanism, Christians should not participate with this holiday, by attempting to mimic it, or Christianize its pagan concepts, which still maintain their evil and historical significance. Furthermore, since there is no Biblical truth regarding Christ, or no Biblical concepts associated with this devilish holiday, but only that which is overwhelmingly evil, God’s people should choose to “touch not the unclean thing” (2 Cor.

6:17). Instead of promoting it, they should replace it with godly living and be “followers of that which is good” (1 Pet. 3:13). 1 Timothy 4:12 reminds us to “be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”