

What is the origin of Halloween?

Halloween can be traced back 2,000 years to the Celts who lived in Ireland, Great Britain, and France. November 1st signaled the end of summer and harvest and the beginning of the cold, dark winter. They believed that on that night the boundary between the living and the dead became its thinnest. The ghosts of the dead would be able to cross this barrier and, once in our world, would terrify and play tricks on the living.

In order to escape the mischief of these spirits many of the humans would dress up in costume as devils, ogres, and imps so that the demons would be unable to distinguish between themselves and the living. This is where the costumes began.

It was supposed that many of the dead would go from house to house to frighten the inhabitants. However, if a treat were given to the demons then they would spare the house and move on. This is how “trick or treat” originated.

Dressing up today

On Halloween most of us still dress up in some kind of costume. But instead of trying to appease demons, we usually dress up just for fun. For one day of the year everyone tries to look like someone or something else.

But there is one costume that we put on that is even more dangerous than any other. It determines how we act and

think. It is a costume that will directly affect whether, after we die, we will be in Heaven or in Hell. But this is not a costume that we put on ourselves. It is a costume that we put on God. We try to make God into something that we would rather prefer Him to be. It is how we twist who God really is and change His nature so that we can feel more comfortable. So what kind of costume(s) can we put onto God?

The Docile Costume

This is where we make God into a placid old man who shrugs at our sin and does not care what we do so long as we do not annoy Him too much. But God says otherwise in Romans 2:5, “But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

The Stern Costume

We dress Him up to be nothing more than a judgmental God who is out to get us. But Isaiah 1:18 tells us that God wants to forgive us, “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, ‘though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow.’”

The Chameleon Costume

God is whatever any particular religion or person says that He is. He apparently has no true attributes or character; He is and does whatever each person wishes Him to be. But

speaking of Jesus in Acts 4:12 God tells us that truth is not manipulated by our own opinions, “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”

The Teacher Costume

God grades on a curve. If you are good and on the higher end of the curve then you will get a passing grade into Heaven. James 2:10 refutes this by telling us that even one wrong condemns us, “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”

The Vacation Costume

God created the universe and then went away. He does not really care about what happens. But to our great fortune God promises, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”—Hebrews 13:5.

The Maitre d’ Costume

God welcomes everyone into Heaven. As each one of us walks up to “The Pearly Gates” God simply bows and sweeps His hand to usher us in. However, read Matthew 7:13-14, ““Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”

The Unknown

The ancient Druids were not unique. People have always been afraid of the unknown and supernatural. We innately know that there is a Heaven and a Hell but we are fearful of which will greet us when we die.

But God does not want us to live in doubt. He wants us to have certainly right now. 1 John 5:13 assures us, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may **know** that you have eternal life."

There is only one God whose attributes have been fixed and certain for all eternity. He says in Malachi 3:6, "For I, the Lord, do not change." But because He desires to a relationship with each one of us He has revealed Himself in the Bible.

God really does care about each one of us but our sins (lust, greed, envy, not forgiving, stealing, gossip, etc) have separated us from a perfectly holy and just God. Each **one** of our sins is a crime against God and demands an eternal payment in Hell. God knows everything and we cannot fool Him.

But God, knowing that we could never be good enough to pay for our own sins, instead chose to pay for them Himself. To do this He became the man Jesus Christ, lived a perfect life, and suffered the full penalty of our sins on the cross. Then three days later He rose again and is alive forevermore.

But we must choose to receive this payment; this forgiveness. Doing this is a one-time act called being born-again. We were first born physically but we must also be born spiritually. To be born-again does not require any money or trying to be our best. It does not mean that you must become a priest, pastor, or nun. It is a call to anyone and everyone no matter how good or bad you are.

Romans 10:9 promises, "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

Once you have made this decision then you should get to know God through prayer, faithful study of the Bible, and involvement in a good Bible-teaching church so that you can know the true God!

Would you like to know more?
We'd love to help!
Please contact us.



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Why do we wear costumes?

Why do we "Trick or Treat"?

What is the most dangerous costume?