



Trick or Treat?

by Rev. Cynthia A. Burns

October has arrived and once again I see many giving their opinions about Christians participating in Halloween.

First, let me say this is my opinion and you are free to have a different one.

Second, Halloween, like any other day, is a time when Christians should take the opportunity to share the gospel with those in our community. The Bible is clear about believers going into all the world and preaching the good news (**Mark 16:16 NLT**). We are called to be salt and light (**Matthew 5:13-14**), in a dark world and make people thirsty for God.

Should a Christian act like the world and dress like the world for Halloween? NO! Yet, *Christians can take the opportunity to be kind, share Jesus, and be a light to the world*. When my husband and me pastored in Long Island, our church decided to create a place for the kids in our community to be safe, receive treats, and hear the gospel of salvation.

Through the years we witnessed many hundreds of children come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I remember Dr. Lester Sumrall saying when he would go overseas to minister that ***it was impossible***

for hungry people to hear the gospel. Feed them first and then they would be able to hear about Jesus.

The local church needs to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (**Matthew 10:16**). This is how I see harvest parties sponsored by local churches during Halloween. Since Jesus said we are called to be **fisher's of men** we would bait the hook with theme's called, **Halle-Ho-Down** or a **Halle-Luau** We even constructed an old western town we called, **Hallelujah City!** We saw this as an opportunity to remove distractions from all the evil that comes with this holiday. The result will be that adults and children, will both be able to hear and receive the salvation message.

Third, if you are home and not participating at a harvest party, get candy and some gospel leaflets that are kid appropriate and give them to the children that come to your door for Halloween. You can do an online search and find life giving resources for young people. **Do not be the crabby neighbor that people won't listen to when you try to tell them about Jesus.**

Finally, we are called by God to be the **1Corinthians 9:19-22** church, where we become all things to all people in order to win some to the Lord! Be safe and effective this Halloween!

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