

Halloween

(rev. 2011-2012)

Deuteronomy 18: 9-14 “When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. ¹⁰ “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² “For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you. ¹³ “You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. ¹⁴ “For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do so.

This type of conduct has been going on for over 3,500 years. Ancient practitioners of the conduct mentioned above were the Canaanites. They would worship Baal and engage in animal and human sacrifices. One of the better known groups that practice these detestable acts are called the Druids. The American Heritage Dictionary defines Druid as:

Dru·id (dr>“1d) *n.* **1.** A member of an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain who appear in Welsh and Irish legend as prophets and sorcerers.

Note: Gaul is an ancient region of western Europe south and west of the Rhine River, west of the Alps, and north of the Pyrenees, corresponding roughly to modern-day France and Belgium.¹

The Druids were into nature worship and the ancient knowledge.² The Druids eventually turned into the Celts. Rome began its conquest of the Celts around AD 43.³ In his *Commentaries*, Julius Caesar stated that the Celts believed they were the children of the god of the Dead who the Romans referred to as Dis.⁴ Caesar also mentions that they were a people “extremely devoted to superstitious rites” often engaging in human sacrifices by burning humans.⁵ The Druids would try to come into contact with the dead through meditation and spirit guides. They would seek out oak groves to conduct their ceremonies. They are still very active in the U.S. and publicly active in England. They also refer to themselves as Pagans. For God’s view of nature worship, see Romans 1:22-31.

Celtic New Year Celebration

The Celtic’s new year began on November 1st.⁶ On that date, the Celtic festival, Samhain (pronounced so-wein) would be celebrated. Samhain was the Celts’ “god of the dead.”⁷ It was believed that the night before their new year (October 31st) the veil between life and death was thinnest. On Halloween night the Celtic witches (male & female), thought they would have the greatest chance to contact the dead and get knowledge and power. They would try to contact the dead through meditation, sacrifice, and other forms of witchcraft. Samhain is a witch’s #1 holiday, both then and now. In discussing Halloween, *The Encyclopedia Britannica* states that

“...kept on Oct. 31...was the Celtic festival at the end of summer named Samhain.... The practice of divinations and its association with the dead, whose souls were supposed to revisit their home on this day.... [T]he autumnal festival acquired sinister significance, with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, fairies and demons of all kinds roaming abroad....Halloween was thought to be the most favorable opportunity for divinations.... It was the only day on which the help of the devil was invoked for such purposes.”⁸

Some may not believe that this is relevant today, unfortunately they are wrong. There are law enforcement agencies with detectives who have received special training in identifying ritualistic/occult crimes. One of the more notorious and gruesome serial murders, Ramirez (a/k/a The Night Stalker), was an avowed Satanist. Are there witches in South Dakota? The answer is yes! During the summer of 1997, the Argus Leader ran an extensive article of an individual in Sioux Falls who was developing a Wicca coven. There have been openly avowed Wicca members in the S.D. state penitentiary.⁹ Wicca is ancient witchcraft. The definition in the American Heritage Dictionary is:

Wic·ca *n.* **1.** A pagan nature religion having its roots in pre-Christian western Europe and undergoing a 20th-century revival, especially in the United States and Great Britain. **2.** A group or community of believers or followers of this religion. [Old English *wicca* necromancer; See **witch**]¹⁰

In 2010 the U. S. Air force Academy created a stone circle worship center for “Earth-centered spirituality” and explained that “*Earth-centered spirituality includes traditions such as Wicca, Druidism and several other religious paths...*”¹¹

How the church developed Halloween

There was a pantheon in Rome. A pantheon is a temple dedicated to all gods.¹² “On May 13, 609 or 610, Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Roman Pantheon to the Virgin Mary and all the Christian martyrs.”¹³ In 835 Pope Gregory IV expanded the feast to include “All Saints” and changed the date of this feast of “All Saints” to line it up with the Celts new year of November 1st.¹⁴ (Remember the Druids were already celebrating this day). “All Saints Day” started being called “All Hallows Day” (hallow means to respect or honor greatly). Thus the day before “All Hallows Day” was called “All Hallows Eve” from which we get the name Halloween. Praying for the dead was to occur the next day on November 2nd, “All Soul’s Day.” “All Soul’s Day” got its start around a couple centuries later when the Catholic Saint Odilo (Abbot of Clugny) claimed to have had a vision of great suffering in purgatory and decided that there needed to be a day that masses were said on their behalf.¹⁵ The practice began in churches associated with Clugny and then spread to others.¹⁶ Purgatory is an unbiblical concept which attacks the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross as the *sole payment for sin*. The sole sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross for the payment of sin is a bedrock doctrine in Biblical Christianity. (See ft. nt. 17 regarding a couple words on purgatory.¹⁷). The *U.S. Catholic* states, “By the end of the 13th century, All Soul’s Day on November 2nd had become a set feast day to pray for our dead throughout the Latin church.”¹⁸ It must be remembered that the Druid Samhain was a 3 day event.¹⁹ Again, All Soul’s Day, falls within that Samhain festival time period.

If one were to believe that this compromise by the “religious leadership” to the pagans resulted in trying to Christianize the Druid new year, they would be wrong on two counts. First: there is no great Christian heritage for Halloween today since praying for the dead in purgatory are non-biblical practices. Second: look how *Compton’s Interactive Encyclopedia* describes the failure of the attempted Christianizing of this pagan holiday;

*“Even after November 1 became a Christian feast day honoring all saints, many people clung to the old pagan beliefs and customs that had grown up about Halloween.”*²⁰

Ask yourself, in today’s culture, where are the non-believers’ kids on Halloween? They are running around in costumes of devils, witches or skeletons playing trick of treat. Where are many of our church kids on Halloween? They are carving jack-o-lanterns and running around at night, playing trick or treat with the unbelieving kids. So who has won over whom on this “holiday?” It is a good reminder that there is no such thing as compromising with the Devil and good coming out of it. The only merit in Church history for this “holiday” is the remembering the *martyrs* of the faith. In reality, remembering the true martyrs of the faith is far from the mind of the vast majority of the people on Halloween. One should not deceive themselves by believing that the mere engaging in some religious activity early on in the evening sanctifies their involvement in traditional Halloween revelry later that night. If one truly wants to remember the martyrs, it can be done without dressing up, trick or treating, going to a haunted house, or bobbing for apples. In summary, those claiming to *redeem* Halloween should honestly ask themselves if they are exploiting the memory of the great martyrs to justify their hidden desire to participate in Halloween activities.

The non-religious reference book *The American Book of Days* states the contradiction of Halloween practices and Christianity:

*“Few holidays have a stranger or more paradoxical history than Halloween... it is the vigil of All Saint’s Day, observed by Roman Catholics...However, some of the customs traditional to Halloween hark back to matter that Christianity for centuries has adamantly opposed: black magic, fortune-telling, ghosts, witches, goblins, fairies, and so on....It is generally accepted that Halloween in its more popular or folk aspects represents a combination of druidic practices and classical Roman religious beliefs. Halloween has clear connections with the rites of the druidic priest in the pre-Roman, pre-Christian Celtic communities...especially in Ireland and Scotland.”*²¹

How did the Celtic practices of Halloween become so widespread in America? In colonial America, the Protestant majority were not celebrators of either All Saints Day or Halloween.²² It was during the Irish potato famine of the 1840's which resulted in a large Irish migration to America. It was soon after their migration that the "folklore remnants of the eve of Samhain" were largely introduced in the U.S.²³

October 31 does have important historical Christian value. Even though everyone in the church is well aware that day is Halloween, very few are aware of the great historical event of the church that occurred on October 31, 1517. It was on that date that Martin Luther nailed his 95 point thesis on the Castle Church in Wittenberg. The thesis confronted un-Biblical practices of the Catholic Church. For those who wish to *redeem* Halloween, I would suggest that on October 31 the Church remember "Reformation Day" as much more significant than traditional Halloween.

Halloween Traditions

Below are a few of the traditions of the Druids on Samhain (Halloween night).

Bon-Fires: The Celts had different traditions regarding bon-fires. One tradition in Wales required that each family have their own bon-fire, and then each member of the family would make an identifying mark on a stone and then throw it in the fire. In the morning they would go out to where the fire was and if your stone was not there, it was assumed that you would die during the next year.²⁴ (Now doesn't that sound like a sweet tradition?). Druids also believed spirits would be in animals. They believed that if they made sacrifices to the lord of death, things would go well for them and their crops.²⁵ They made both human and animal sacrifices in the bon-fire. History also tells of wicker cages containing several people being burned alive in hopes of bettering the yield of crops.²⁶ In the morning there would be no evidence that anything happened apart from the ashes of the fire and some **bones**, thus the name **bone-fire or bon-fire**. If you look up the definition of bon-fire in the Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary: it states "**bon-fire**- [*ME bonfire a fire of bones..*]"

Trick or Treat: It was believed that the veil between life and death was so thin on this day that the spirits would come back to their homes on earth. "The ghosts that were thought to throng about the houses of the living were greeted with a banquet-laden table. At the end of the feast, masked and costumed villagers representing the souls of the dead paraded to the outskirts of town leading the ghosts away."²⁷ The masks were to hide your identity so they would not know who was trying to lead them away. If you did not leave food for the spirits it was thought that the spirits would do something to you (i.e. trick or treat). It must be remembered that this is an old pagan ritual. In Ireland farmers used to go about asking for food for their "Halloween festivities in the name of the ancient god, Muck Olla."²⁸ Those who gave were promised with good luck and those who did not give were threatened with bad luck.

Jack-o-lanterns: The Celts believed that Jack-o lanterns represented a damned soul "condemned to walk the earth, or the souls of men who had been lost at sea."²⁹ Jack-O- Lantern was a folk figure who

"..was the spirit of a blacksmith name Jack who was too evil to get into heaven but who was not allowed into hell because he had outwitted the devil. Doomed to wander the earth forever, he scooped up a glowing ember with the vegetable he happened to be eating at the time and used it as a lantern to light his way."³⁰ (See ft. nt. 29 for more details regarding the legend).

Instead of pumpkins, in Scotland they would put a light in a turnip. Then the Druids would carve faces in the vegetable and call them Jack-o-lanterns. They were to be the faces of demons and evil spirits.³¹ If you put a carved jack-o-lantern out in front of your home with a candle in it is "symbolic of death and the spirit world."³²

Black Cats: The druids believed that the black cats were "human beings who had been changed into animals by evil powers."³³ They were often sacrificed in fire. Black cats were symbolic of the spirit of evil.

Bobbing for Apples: The Celts believed that apples were helpful in predicting the future. They also used them as a fertility symbol. Bobbing for apples was a divining ritual to make predictions regarding love and luck.³⁴

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN TO DO?

One might admit that all these elements of ancient druid/satanic worship exist today, but argue that to them it is just a fun play day to dress up. To those who hold to that opinion I would ask, have you ever wondered why you are carving out a jack-o-lantern, or what it means? Ever wonder why you are sending your kid out to run around on a night that is glorifying death in either costumes or horror movies? The answer to these questions is easy...*"it is what everyone else is doing."* But what did God say about imitating what everyone else is doing? **Deuteronomy 18: 9** ***"When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations."*** The world glorifies gore, blood, and death on Halloween night, but what does God's Wisdom in His Word say; **Proverbs 8:36** ***"...All those who hate me love death."***

Jesus warns us about the extreme consequences if a person ***"causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble..."*** Matthew 18:6. Despite that warning, most parents turn the other way when confronted with the evil of Halloween. They do not want to keep their kids from a little fun, especially since all their children's friends are doing the same thing. In that situation, the problem is that the child, and not the parent, is running the home. I wonder if that parent will have the same attitude when their kid is 17 years old and wants a little fun in drugs and sex...especially since their friends are doing it. It is at a young age that a child should be taught that as a Christian he/she is very different from the unbeliever. This is what God says:

2 Corinthians 6:17 ***"Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;.."***

Ephesians 5:6-12 ***"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret."***

Summary

Christians should not participate in any of the traditional Halloween activities. The typical "harvest party" at a church allows the kids to come dressed in their Halloween costumes. Often the "harvest party" is a compromised Halloween party in which many of the kids leave the church to go out to trick or treat afterwards. I would suggest that the church employ activities that involve our kids and truly glorify God. The church could also come together for praise and prayer for children who are out on a night that sees an up-surge in crime and evil. Scripture instructs us to do spiritual battle by putting on the "armor of God" and engaging in prayer (Ephesians 6:10-20). Another possibility is the great opportunity to hand out high quality gospel tracts to those who come to your house that night. This can be done without playing up trick or treat traditions. You might even be able to visit with kids about the Lord and lead them to a saving knowledge of Christ, right there at your front door! Remember what the Word of God says in 3 John 11, ***"Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil..."***

[PLEASE SEE JOHN MACARTHUR'S COMMENTS ON BACK OF THE LAST PAGE. MACARTHUR IS A TRUSTED THEOLOGIAN, PASTOR, BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT AND BIBLE TEACHER ON MOODY & VCY RADIO

¹ The American Heritage Dictionary Online

² Halloween – History, The World Book Encyclopedia, vol. 9, p.25 (2002)

³ Halloween – The Romans, The World Book Encyclopedia, vol. 9, p.25 (2002)

⁴ Julius Caesar, *Commentaries*, Book 6, Chapter 18. [The Celts called the Lord of death, Saman - Halloween – History, The World Book Encyclopedia, vol. 9, p.25 (2002)]

⁵ Julius Caesar, *Commentaries*, Book 6, Chapter 16.

⁶ Halloween, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, vol. 11 1970 p.15

⁷ *The Encyclopedia Americana International Edition* v. 13 1993 p. 725

⁸ Halloween, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, , vol.11 1970 p.15.

⁹ The State of South Dakota was sued in Federal Court in the early 1990's by an individual incarcerated at the South Dakota State Penitentiary who was seeking right for his Wicca religion. The case was settled out of court.

¹⁰ Wicca, *American Heritage Dictionary* Online

- ¹¹ <http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123187157>. "Academy chapel to add outdoor circle to worship areas." Posted 1/26/2010 Updated 2/3/2010. See also The Seattle Times "Earth religions get worship area at Air Force Academy" 2/1/2010 by Dan Elliott.
- ¹² Pantheon, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary online* (2000)
- ¹³ Ankerberg & Weldon *The Facts On Halloween*, Harvest House Publishing 1996, p.11
- ¹⁴ Ibid. See - Father Andy Costello, "Sin Is a Boomerang." *U.S. Catholic*, Nov. 1992, pp. 37-38; George William Douglas, *The American Book of Days* (New York: H.W. Wilson, 1938), p. 548; *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, edited by Robert C. Broderick, revised and updated, NY: Nelson, 1987, p. 30 states that Pope Boniface IV (d.615) instituted the All Saints Feast in the west, and that it has been celebrated on November 1 since around A.D. 371, when Pope Gregory III consecrated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in honor of all the saints and set the date of the feast. [Quotation and information in the main text and footnote 11 information from here up obtained in Ankerberg & Weldon *The Facts On Halloween*, Harvest House Publishing 1996].
- See also *The Encyclopedia Americana International Edition* v. 13 1993 p. 725 *The American Book of Days* 4th Edition 2000 p.742 states that it was in the 8th century that Pope Gregory III moved the feast to November and then a century later Pope Gregory IV placed All Saints day on the calendar of the church.
- ¹⁵ Odilo died in 1048; Ankerberg & Weldon *The Facts On Halloween*, Harvest House Publishing 1996 p.11.
- ¹⁶ Ethel L. Urlin, *Festivals, Holy Days and Saint's Days: A study in Origins and Survivals in church Ceremonies and Secular Customs* (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., 1915, republished Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979), p. 190. See * below
- ¹⁷ Purgatory is not mentioned in the Bible. It is a doctrine of demons that attacks the sufficiency of Christ's complete atoning work on the cross. **Romans 5:9-11** "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him." ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation." See also Luke 23:39-43 regarding the "criminal" who was on the cross next to Jesus. He was a robber, (Matthew 27:44) yet he never went to purgatory. He repented, admitted he was a sinner, acknowledged Jesus as God, and asked forgiveness. Luke 23:39-43. Jesus responded, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43. (See also **Hebrews 9:27** "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment").
- ¹⁸ Father Andy Costello, "Sin Is a Boomerang," *U.S. Catholic*, Nov. 1992, p.39 See * below.
- Praying for the dead to be relieved from their suffering is a non-biblical concept. **Hebrews 9:27** "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment".
- See also: **Luke 16:22-27** "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom ; and the rich man also died and was buried . ²³ "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes , being in torment , and * saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom . ²⁴ "And he cried out and said, ' Father Abraham , have mercy on me, and send Lazarus , that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue ; for I am in agony in this flame .' ²⁵ "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here , and you are in agony . ²⁶ 'And besides all this , between us and you there is a great chasm fixed , in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able , and that none may cross over from there to us.'"
- ¹⁹ "The ancient Druids had a three-day celebration at the beginning of November." Excerpted on *Halloween* from *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*. Copyright (c) 1994, 1995, 1996.
- ²⁰ Excerpted on *Halloween* from *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*. Copyright (c) 1994, 1995, 1996
- ²¹ *The American Book of Days* 4th Edition 2000 p.741
- ²² Ibid at p.742
- ²³ Ibid. See also Ankerberg & Weldon *The Facts On Halloween*, Harvest House Publishing 1996 p.8 which states the following legend: Irish Jack was a drunk who tricked the devil into going up into an apple tree for an apple. While he was in the tree, Jack put the sign of a cross into the trunk of the tree preventing the devil from coming down. Jack forced the devil to swear he would never come after Jack's soul. The devil agreed. Jack dies but was not allowed into heaven because of his wicked life. The devil would not take him into hell because of the promise made to Jack. Jack is a damned soul was left to wander the earth. As he left the devil, he was eating a turnip and the devil threw him a live coal from hell. Jack put the coal in his turnip as a light. So the light in the turnip/pumpkin etc. "symbolized the devils coal.
- ²⁴ Robert J. Myers, *Celebrations: The Complete Book of American Holidays* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1972), P. 259. See * below; See also Halloween – Regional Halloween customs, *The World Book Encyclopedia*, vol. 9, p.25 (2002)]
- ²⁵ Sue Ellen Thompson, *Holiday Symbols* 2nd Edition, Bonfires, 2000, p.205
- ²⁶ Lewis Spence, *The History and Origins of Druidism* (London: Aquarian Press, 1971), p.104ff & 159. See also: "Celtic Religion" *Encyclopedia Britannica, Macropedia*, vol.3, p. 1069-1071. See * below. See also Julius Caesar, *Commentaries*, Book 6, Chapter 16 which mentions the containers holding living men to be set on fire. He further explains that their Druid gods preferred the sacrifice of criminals, but if they did not have any on hand they would burn the innocent.
- ²⁷ Robert J. Myers, *Celebrations: The Complete Book of American Holidays* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1972), P. 259 See * below. See also Sue Ellen Thompson, *Holiday Symbols* 2nd Edition, 2000, Trick-or-treating, p.208 & Costumes p.105.
- ²⁸ Sue Ellen Thompson, *Holiday Symbols* 2nd Edition, 2000, Trick-or-treating, p.208 & Costumes p.105.
- ²⁹ Sue Ellen Thompson, *Holiday Symbols* 2nd Edition, Jack-O-Lantern, 2000, p.207
- ³⁰ Ibid
- ³¹ Halloween, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, vol. 11 1970 p.15
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Sue Ellen Thompson, *Holiday Symbols* 2nd Edition, Black cats, 2000, p.204
- ³⁴ Ibid Nuts and Apples at p.208; see also Halloween, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, , vol.11 1970 p.15.

* Designates Information in the main text and footnote obtained in Ankerberg & Weldon *The Facts On Halloween*, Harvest House Publishing 1996.

Q & A

Q: "What is your perspective of Halloween?"

A: There are a number of reasons why I think it is unwise for Christian parents to permit their children to go door to door collecting candy on Halloween. First of all, dressing up like witches, ghosts, or goblins is incompatible with a Christian's testimony.

Furthermore, many of the customs of Halloween are associated with the worst kinds of pagan beliefs and ceremonies; they are usually centered on sinister things such as demons, witchcraft, and superstition.

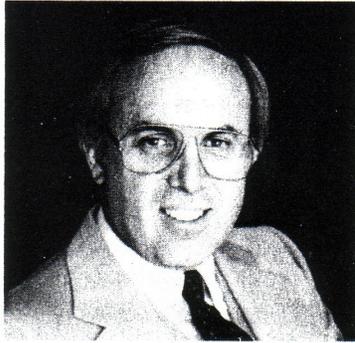
If we as Christian parents simply disregard the unchristian aspects of such practices as mere fantasy or superstition and then encourage our children to participate in them, we run the risk of communicating the message that the spiritual battle waged by the rulers of darkness (Ephesians 6:10) is not to be taken seriously.

Halloween has its origins in an ancient Celtic harvest celebration. The superstitious Celts believed that demons, ghosts, and hobgoblins roamed free in the dark and barren days of winter, and the end of October was the onset of that season. Their celebrations grew out of their superstitions, and they have been passed down to the present day, along with

other pagan and satanic beliefs.

Another reason I don't advise parents to permit their children to celebrate Halloween by dressing up and going door to door is the issue of safety. The possibility of a child's being struck by an automobile, kidnaped, poisoned, or otherwise injured is greater on Halloween than on any other night of the year.

Still, I think it is wise for parents to give their children a creative alternative to celebrating



Halloween. They shouldn't feel like they've missed something because they are Christians.

Our family likes to spend Halloween together. We plan special activities that are more fun for the kids than begging candy. In the past, we have all gone out together for ice cream, or we might stay home and have a special evening together doing something just for them.

That way when the children face the inevitable pressure of talking with their friends about what they did on Halloween, they can share their faith in positive

terms, rather than having to speak of what they can't do because of their parents' Christian faith.

Q: "Many evangelical leaders today are urging Christians to become involved in politics, to organize into a large voting bloc in order to use our political power as a positive moral influence. What is your opinion of that?"

A: I once heard Henry Brandt, a Christian counselor, say, "Don't ever let your ministry deteriorate into counseling." His point was that the priority in ministry, even for a counselor, is not counseling. If a counselor loses sight of the fact that the Word of God, not psychology or human wisdom, changes lives, he has ceased to be the kind of counselor God wants him to be.

In the same way, a preacher, who is called by God to teach the Word of God, must not become a political organizer. That would be a prostitution of the priority of his ministry.

If we want to have the best moral impact on our society, the way to do it is by changing the lives of the people in it through the transforming power of the gospel of Christ, not by electing different leaders or making different laws. Laws and leaders, no matter how morally right they might be, do not change men's hearts. Only the gospel has power to truly change lives (Romans 1:16), and God has entrusted us with the responsibility of preaching it. We dare not abdicate that responsibility for a lesser calling.

What are the real problems in

(cont., p. 3)