

## Fraternizing with the Enemy

In the last update, we briefly mentioned the subject of Halloween, and I have had several queries regarding its origins. So here it is in a nutshell. To obtain further detail, log on to <http://www.history.com> from which this extract has been taken.

*Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in).*

*By A.D. 43, Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.*

*The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.*

*By the 800s, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Even later, in A.D. 1000, the church would make November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils. Together, the three celebrations, the eve of All Saints', All Saints', and All Souls', were called Hallowmas.*

From the creation of mankind, trouble abounded from the time he started fraternizing with the enemy and throughout history we see that far from the

Church converting the pagans by incorporating their festivals into the church, the opposite has happened. The Church has been weakened by this practice! (This is one reason why I totally disagree with church bands in Crop-over!)

A little research would show that our major festivals all have distinctly pagan customs incorporated into them!

When the Israelites were left alone by Moses while he went up the mountain to rendezvous with God, the children of Israel *“Early the next morning, -----got up and offered Whole-Burnt-Offerings and brought Peace-Offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink and then began to party. It turned into a wild party!* (Exodus 32:6 *The Message*) They did this because they forgot the God they were to serve, and all He had done for them. However, they remembered the false god of Egypt!

Later, under the reign of King Jeroboam, in an attempt to prevent the people from worshipping at Jerusalem - the place designated by God, a counterfeit religious system was set up and men were ordained to the “ministry” who were not appointed by God. (Sounds familiar?).

You may say that Christ celebrated the feasts of Israel! Yes, He did because He was a Jew. Had He not gone to the feasts as mandated by God, He would have been in breach of the Law of Moses, and therefore unable to save anyone! At the same time, the feasts, of Israel pointed to Jesus for the most part, and He is their fulfillment! (1 Corinthians 5:7-8, Matthew 5:17)

Most of the Church's celebrations have degenerated into worldly festivals, with only lip service being done to God. Let's not get carried away with festivities. The only celebration Jesus gave the Church was done at what we term the Last Supper. That was given so we could renew our covenant with God and celebrate the victory that Jesus gave to us over the devil and all his works!

When we plant a tree, whether it is by seed or cutting that tree brings forth fruit characteristic of the thing that was planted. Similarly, when we engraft a cutting to a tree, the characteristics of the thing that is engrafted are displayed both in the fruit and the original tree.

Why is the Church of God engrafting demonically birthed music, festivals,

fashion and everything else into it in order to attract the world? Jesus said if I be lifted up I will draw all men to Me. He told us to go and preach the Gospel, He will confirm the Word with signs following - that is how the Church is built and strengthened! That is how the lost are drawn to Jesus!

We are not against celebrating the birthday of Jesus at Christmas or the Resurrection at Easter, but we need to refocus! When we see the extravagance associated with celebrations today it is appalling. Imagine the electricity bills for some homes! If all the money we splurge on these events were put into feeding the poor and preaching the Gospel, the world would be far better off!

What is it really all about?