



Special Report on Witchcraft, the Occult, Halloween, Earth Day, and the Public Schools

The Wiccan religion, commonly known as witchcraft, is a religion! The same federal and state laws and court rulings that have been enforced against the expression of the Christian faith in the public schools must also be equally and fairly enforced against the teachings and promotion of the Wiccan religion to our children!

We are only asking our public schools to treat all religions as equals. Just as our children have “fun” at school parties in December without Jesus, children can have “fun” at school parties on October 31st without the occult and witchcraft being involved! We wish to secularize Halloween the way Christmas and Easter have been secularized in the public schools!

The public schools get around this issue by refusing to recognize witchcraft as a religion.

**Gallup Religion Poll
Oct., 1990**

Belief in Witches:

Evangelicals	18%
Non-Evangelicals	11%
No Religious Affiliation	22%

This report was first published in October, 1992, in The Something Better News, a Christian newspaper circulated in and around the Grand Rapids, Michigan area 1991-1998. It has been updated with new information.

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The History of Halloween

By Jerry Fennell

Based on the World Book Encyclopedia and Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft by Raymond Buckland

The celebration of what we call Halloween dates back to before the time of Christ. In the Celtic countries of Britain, Germany, and France, the Druids — the priests and teachers of the Celts — set aside October 31st to honor Samhain, the lord of the dead. At this time the crops were all harvested and the season of life and growth was ending (summer) and the season of death and decay was beginning (winter).

The Celts believed that Samhain released all the souls of the dead on October 31 to return to their homes for one night. The families had to leave a meal out for the spirits, or, feeling unwelcome, the spirits would cast spells or cause other problems for the living. This is the beginning of “trick or treat.”

The Druids built huge bonfires on the hill tops to guide the spirits. The priests were charged with appeasing the evil spirits that were also released, so they sacrificed crops, animals and humans. (At Stonehenge in England the remains of over 3,000 humans that had been sacrificed have been found). The bones of the bodies, after they had been burned in the bonfire, were used to tell the future. The Druid priest would wear animal skins and skulls on their heads to appease the animal spirits. Others dressed up as evil spirits. This is the beginning of the Halloween costume.

On October 31, the people were to put out their family fires. After the worship service was over at the hilltop bonfire, the Druid priests went door to door to collect the temple tax and to restart the family fires with fire from their alter (which the gods had blessed). The priest wore their animal skins and skulls door to door just as today's trick or treaters wear their costumes. If you did not pay the temple tax, the Druids would set your barn on fire or kill or take your bull or cow. (More trick or treat!) As a sign that a family would cooperate with the Druid priest and pay the temple tax, a pumpkin with a candle or glowing lump of coal was placed in the window or outside the door. This is the beginnings of the Jack-O-Lantern.

When the Romans conquered the Celts, they combined the festival to Samhain with their own festival honoring Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees, making apples and nuts an important part of the rituals. The Christian religion was established in the cities in the third and fourth centuries. The pagan temples were torn down, but the pagan worship never completely disappeared. The “old religion” continued in the countryside, but to counter it, in the year of 834, Pope Boniface IV moved the church feast of All Saints' Day from May to November 1st. October 31st was called All Hallows' Evening—eventually abbreviated to Halloween.

The word “Witch” comes from the word “Wicca,” or “Wiccan,” meaning, “wise one.” In America, because of the strong Christian convictions of the early settlers, Halloween celebrations were banned. With the potato crop failure in northern Europe and Britain in the late 1840's, immigrants of Celtic origin arrived in America and brought with them “the old religion.” These people also settled in West Michigan.

In the mid 1900's, the pagan religions started to mushroom in America. Today, 15 million Americans call themselves Witches. This federally recognized and tax exempt religion can trace its religious roots back over 3,000 years. Witches and other Pagans celebrate on October 31st.

Do Christians have any reason to join in their celebration?

re·li·gion (ri lij'ən) *n.* [ME. *religioun* < OFr. or L.: OFr. *religion* < L. *religio*, reverence for the gods, holiness, in LL.(Ec.), a system of religious belief < ? *religare*, to bind back < *re-*, back + *ligare*, to bind, bind together; or < ? *re-* + IE. base **leǵ-*, to collect, whence Gr. *legein*, L. *legere*: cf. LOGIC] 1. a) belief in a divine or superhuman power or powers to be obeyed and worshiped as the creator(s) and ruler(s) of the universe b) expression of such a belief in conduct and ritual 2. a) any specific system of belief, worship, conduct, etc., often involving a code of ethics and a philosophy [the Christian *religion*, the Buddhist *religion*, etc.] b) any system of beliefs, practices, ethical values, etc. resembling, suggestive of, or likened to such a system [humanism as a *religion*] 3. the state or way of life of a person in a monastic order or community [to enter *religion*] 4. any object of conscientious regard and pursuit —★*get religion* [Colloq.] 1. to become religious 2. to become very conscientious or earnest about something

Public Schools refuse to recognize witchcraft as religion

“A picture of a witch does not necessarily represent someone involved in witchcraft, and a picture of a ghost does not necessarily represent a member of the spirit world, and a picture of the devil does not necessarily represent the head of the under world! Therefore these are not religious symbols and can be displayed in the public schools without restriction!” one Superintendent of Education told me. “Halloween is only 40 to 50 years old in America and has no religious history or significance whatsoever.”

When the public schools refuse to recognize witchcraft as a religion and Halloween is a religious holiday, they are practicing a double standard! Let’s look at the different ways many public schools observe the Christian holidays of Christmas and Easter compared to Halloween:

Halloween:

In many elementary schools, teachers, (room) parents, or even the principal often dress up as witches or wizards. Halloween parties sponsored by the PTA are held and the children are encouraged to come in costume, also often dressed as witches, ghost, or the devil. Games are often played with magic, witchcraft themes, background music sets the mood. "I am a Witch, I am a Witch, I am a good little Witch," is one of the songs often taught to our children. Stories are read to the little children that have the witches as the heroes and magic as the solution to what ever problem there is. Candy given to the children have witch, ghost, or devil shapes. Many schools are decorated with witches, ghost, devils, and skeletons six weeks before Halloween. A Spook House sets on school property. Evil themes are celebrated as fun.

In some schools in the higher grades, teachers bring ouija boards, taro cards, crystals into the classroom.

The true history of Halloween is never discussed but the parties in the elementary schools act out historical religious rituals and stories involve the children in religious principles and values of pagan religions.

Christmas and Easter:

In many schools systems, Christmas and Easter are not observed! They have been replaced by Winter Celebration Day and Spring Celebration Day.

In many schools, teachers are forbidden to say, "Merry Christmas," to the children. They are instructed to say something like, "Happy Season." No teacher is allowed by law to dress up as a Bible character or to encourage the children to. By law, Bible stories can not be read to the children. Santa Clause and the Easter Bunny are the theme of the day. No Christian displays can be found in the public schools six week ahead of the day. the songs the children are taught are largely secular. There are no Nativity Scenes on school property for fear of the school being sued. The true history of the holiday is never discussed.

The Public schools are one of the only governmental agencies that refuses to recognize what is commonly called Witchcraft and the Occult as a religion or religious activity. The Michigan Board of Education ruled in July, 1991, that Halloween displays and parties in the public schools were not promoting witchcraft. However, the Federal Courts have ruled that if one teacher in an entire school district wore a Christian piece of jewelry, it was the whole district endorsing the religion of Christianity. If a teacher put her personal Bible on her desk and her students saw it, it was government endorsement of religion.

Bible reading is out, but what is it when a teacher reads Horoscopes to the children? Prayer is out, but what is it when a teacher leads children in casting spells? Christian jewelry is out, but what is it when a teacher dresses up as a witch? If the children can not be given a picture of Jesus to color when they study the letter "J", then how can they be given a picture of a witch to color when they study the letter "W"?

If only student initiated and lead religious expression is constitutional in the public schools, what would a PTA organized and lead Halloween Party be in the eyes of an consistent Federal Judge?

The Occult and Witchcraft themes do not stop with Halloween! They are woven throughout the public school's curriculum.



What World Book says:

“During the mid 1900’s, a new interest in witchcraft occurred in Europe and the United States. As a result, witchcraft as an organized religion has attracted large numbers of believers. These people meet regularly in local covens (groups of 13 or fewer members). Witchcraft festivals called Witches’ Sabbath take place four times a year, one in each season. The most important festival occurs on Halloween.”

--World Book Encyclopedia, 1989, WXYZ, page 375

Paganism in America

In the last 50 years, America has changed.

We have all experienced the changes in the family structure and the changes in the workplace because of new technology. We have all experienced the changes in transportation, with faster cars, faster jets and space travel. Our homes are more comfortable now, many of them are built with materials only invented in our lifetimes. We have all benefited by the changes in communications, lasers and computers. Medicine has changed in unbelievable leaps and bounds! This is truly the age of knowledge and of information.

But in the last 50 years America has changed, in more ways than just the visible physical, technologically, and in the increase of knowledge. America has changed spiritually!

The Christian/Judaic spiritual and moral foundation that America was founded on (and has served us so well) has been greatly weakened by the religion of secular humanism, (the belief that there is no God), and by another religion, paganism, (a belief in another god or in many gods)! In the past 50 years, paganism has taken a foothold in our land.

Paganism in America are the same religions that God warned the Israelites about before they entered the Promise Land; "When you enter the land which the Lord your God give you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. 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, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord." Deuteronomy 18: 9-12 (NAS)

All these things are being performed in America today and most of them are considered First Amendment protected religious activity!

Paganism, like Christianity, has many denominations and many levels of involvement and commitment. It involves the worship of

many gods and goddesses that are called by numerous different names, and it involves the worship of man, himself. In the final annals, they are all serving the one that was kicked out of heaven, the father of lies, the one who seeks to destroy and kill.

I am not addressing the problem of someone who plays golf on Sunday morning and does not go to church or who watches too much sports on TV. I am talking about Americans who worship other gods, pray to other gods, bow to other gods. Paganism has its holidays, its rituals and ceremonies, its own bible, its own schools and publications, and its own deities.

But to God, it is all spiritual idolatry. "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world makes himself an enemy of God." (Jas. 4:4 NAS)

Today there are over 25 million pagans in the United States! Over 6 million Americans call themselves Wiccans or witches. Almost half a million are involved in Generational Satanism!

The U.S. Army now has pagan chaplains to minister to the pagans in the military. The U.S. Chaplains Manual has a chapter on Witchcraft and Satanism. The Federal Courts have ruled in several cases that Witchcraft is a religion and that the rights of those who practice it must be respected. Federal Civil Service workers are now allowed to have Halloween off as a religious holiday. The I.R.S. grants tax exempt status to over 4,000 Wiccan Churches.

Our state, Michigan, is one of 22 states that gives tax exempt status to Witchcraft churches. In 1991, San Francisco passed a city ordinance outlawing animal sacrifices after receiving over 90 reports of ritual sacrifices inside the city limits. The State of Florida passed a similar law. The Supreme Court overturned these laws, giving animal sacrifices First Amendment protection. In America, the courts have given the Satanic and Witchcraft evangelical organization the right to enter the prisons to evangelize just as Christian organizations enter and evangelize in the prisons.