

Halloween Thoughts
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In 1 Corinthians 9:22, Paul states that he tries to find common ground with those around him so that he might share Christ with them.

My purpose in this article isn't to make a statement about how we should or shouldn't feel about Halloween, rather to encourage us all to find "common ground" with unbelievers and use October 31 as a way to help share Christ.

God calls us to be faithful and to make a difference. We don't have to do great things. Little things we do can make a big impact. There are times in our lives when we have opportunities to reach out and touch people in a special way. Halloween can be one such opportunity. One of the biggest problems we face is that Halloween today has become strongly associated with the occult and a preoccupation with evil entities—two influences that Scripture and the church have always warned against. This makes it even more important for us to shine in the midst of the darkness that surrounds us.

There was a man in the neighborhood where I grew up who made snow cones every Halloween for all of us trick-or-treaters. I remember him. More than that, I remember how special he made each of us feel. It inspired within me a desire to one day, if at all possible, to do what he did: to make and hand out snow cones on Halloween; to make good memories by touching the hearts of children and youth in special ways. (God has blessed me to be able to do this, and I will be handing out snow cones on October 31 at First United Methodist Church of Clewiston. Stop by if you're in the neighborhood!)

As kids come to your door, let them see His light in you. Don't give in to the world, but be in the world with the Christ light shining through you. Don't hide it under a bushel, but hold it up to the world as a living witness for our living God. It is the combined wattage of many lights, each shining in its own place but for a common purpose, that illuminates a city in the midst of the darkness of night.

Someone shared that being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. "God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for the entire world to see."