

# halloween

## AND THE GOSPEL

This year a survey showed that the top 3 holidays in America are Thanksgiving, Christmas and Halloween. Halloween is about 3 things: fear, fun and food... wearing masks, decorating with the macabre and paying exorbitant amounts of money to go places where they actually create an atmosphere to scare you.

So what's our infatuation? Your heart is pounding, your hands are clenched, terror crawls up your spine, you are scared to look at the screen or read any further or take one more step through the haunted house. Yet people will come out of those environments and say, "woe, it does not get any better than this!" Fear sells – but why? Why do people love to be scared?

Every scary atmosphere possesses one of three qualities:

- The supernatural – such as ghosts, spirits, and forces beyond nature.
- Psychological thrillers – such as drama, action, mystery and paranoia.
- Biology – such as freaks of nature or terrifying viruses.

These atmospheres not only stir up our emotions, but they release endorphins similar to getting high. Believe it or not, the hormones that are released during a scary moment are actually hormones that make us feel good. Those situations revolve around our emotions, and after we release, we feel better.

I have another theory, and this theory is supported by someone who knows human beings better than we know ourselves... and his name is God.

### Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT)

**Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**



God created you and me in his image... our body, soul and spirit. Now, rather than think of a spirit as some creepy entity in a horror movie or a figure in a haunted house, remember that we are more than flesh and blood. It doesn't take much to convince us of that when we have seen a lifeless body.

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You see my friend, God created all of us as a majestic masterpiece for his purpose and glory. We are complex and amazing. But, unfortunately, sin has infected all of us. As I stated before, God created us for a purpose – his purpose.

**Proverbs 16:4 (NLT)**  
**The LORD has made everything for his own purposes,  
even the wicked for a day of disaster.**

Maybe you are wondering what it means "that we have sinned." Sin is simply anything that is in direct contrast to God's holy standard. He is a perfect God who cannot sin and cannot be united with sinful people. Our sins separate us from God.

**Romans 3:23 (NLT)**  
**For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.**

**Romans 6:23 (NLT)**  
**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of  
God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Now that's some scary news that makes any horror film or haunted house look like a walk in the park. If you're thinking... "Rick, you can't be serious, sin and eternal hell. Come on man, give me a break." Well my friend, not only is it true, but no matter how good we attempt to be, remember this... sins cannot be erased by good works.

**Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)**  
**We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous  
deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves,  
we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.**



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Now that's scary bad news and I realize you may be tempted to stop watching. Well don't be, because none of this horrific information has anything to do with those who receive the gift of God. This gift came into the world and his name was Jesus. Remember the second most popular holiday... Christmas. That's when we celebrate his birth because he came for one distinct purpose. He came to die on a cross because God's holy standard required a perfect sacrifice. And only Jesus, God in the flesh, could meet that standard. Listen to these words from the Bible – God's holy word.

**John 3:16 (NLT)**

**"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."**

**Romans 5:8 (NLT)**

**But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.**

Think about those words. God demonstrated his love for us that while we were sinners Christ died for us. He didn't ask us to get religious, give up our sins or try to be better. He said come to him in faith and believe and receive everlasting life. Let's stay with the Christmas analogy for a little longer. What happens at Christmas time? We give and receive gifts. When you receive the gift, what did you do to deserve it? Nothing! Did you have to earn it? No. You just simply receive, because of the generosity of the giver.

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)**

**God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.**

**John 6:47 (NLT)**

**"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life."**

My friend, you can live free of fear! You can live with the assurance of living in heaven after you leave this earth. Hell no longer has its grasp on you. The fear of death is gone, and no matter how many times you have felt abandoned by others, God will never ever abandon you. Life that's eternal lasts forever. God takes hold of you. Don't take my word for it. Look at his words:

**1 John 5:13 (NLT)**

**I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.**

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**John 10:28-30 (NLT)**

**"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."**

People often ask me why I can watch a scary movie, or go to scary places, and not be afraid. My answer is simply that God has me in his grasp and there is nothing evil can do to remove me from Gods love, mercy and infinite grace.

This year choose to trust in Jesus and let go of the fears that fill our thoughts and lives; instead, let God's peace surround you.

Doesn't that sound great? Well then, pray this prayer with me right where you are. God thank you for loving me so much that you would send your only son Jesus Christ to the earth to die in my place... To conquer death and hell and evil. I admit I am a sinner and have nothing to offer to you except my brokenness, and I put my trust in Jesus Christ as my only hope for salvation. Thank you, God, for setting me free from the fears of this life and the life to come. In Jesus' name, amen.

Welcome to real freedom, my friend.

At Grace Church we care about everyone and would love for you to come and visit us at one of our 3 services: Saturday nights at 5pm; Sunday at 9am and 11am, at 69th and Sheridan Blvd. in Arvada. We also understand that it might not be possible for you to attend in person, so join us at our virtual church service on YouTube, Facebook live, or on our webpage [gracechurchco.com](http://gracechurchco.com). We are here for you every day. But most important, you have a God who loves you and cares about everything you do. His son Jesus and his Holy Spirit will be with you everywhere you go.

Here is our contact information, and remember you can access us online every week, as well as find our resources every day through YouTube, our mobile app and website.

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