

# HOLY-WEEN

(a Halloween alternative!)

Justin Worden – October 27, 2010 – Wednesday Night Live

## I. What's This Halloween Thing All About?

### a. Halloween History

- i. 2000 yrs = Celtic New Year festival of Samhain
- ii. Dead roamed around causing trouble
- iii. Treats baked to appease dead
- iv. Ghoulish costumes to lead out departed souls
- v. Villagers carried fire (sacred) back home in carved out vegetable shells = our jack-o-lantern

### b. All Hallow's Eve History

- i. 8<sup>th</sup> century – Pope Gregory II = All Saints Day (Nov 1<sup>st</sup>) – honoring martyrs
- ii. Evening of holy persons, spiritual prep for ASD

### c. Should Christians Celebrate Halloween?

- i. Paul's address to pagan idols (1 Cor 8:4-13)

vv. 4-6 = "Some people say, quite rightly, that idols have no actual existence, that there's nothing to them, that there is no God other than our one God, that no matter how many of these so-called gods are named and worshiped they still don't add up to anything but a tall story. They say—again, quite rightly—that there is only one God the Father, that everything comes from him, and that he wants us to live for him. Also, they say that there is only one Master—Jesus the Messiah—and that everything is for his sake, including us. Yes. It's true."

- ii. If Paul were alive today...
  1. "Don't worry about the ancient association of these holidays with paganism since we know there are no gods of sun and death and that the dead don't roam the earth. You're not appeasing Samhain when you go trick-or-treating or sacrificing to the gods by carving a jack-o-lantern. But if your family or friends have reservations about these things, don't encourage them to do something they feel is sinful" (James Watkins)
- i. It's about your conviction! – what's a conviction? There's a war happening! (Spiritual warfare!) Why do we bypass it?
- ii. So... tonight's emphasis is not "Halloween", it is "Holy-Ween"! What's that?

## II. What's This Holy-Ween Thing All About?

### a. It's About Fun

- i. We can have fun at church! (Church is boring? No!)
- ii. We can play messy games, we can see a crazy costume show, we can enjoy tasty snacks, and it was all good, clean fun!
- iii. David, the psalmist, had fun while writing some of the Bible = "I'm thanking you, God, from a full heart, I'm writing the book on your wonders. I'm whistling, laughing, and jumping for joy; I'm singing your song, High God." (Psalm 9:1, Msg)
- iv. Surround yourself with good clean fun more often, that's what makes God happy, I believe!



1. **Movies/music:** Secretariat, JoyFM, SpiritFM

### b. It's About Community

- i. The best part about Holy-Ween is the community we have together (**community = "a people"**)
- ii. Gathering together to just have a great time
- iii. That's what "church" (**ekklesia**) is all about
  1. Heb. 10:25 = "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." (NLT)
- iv. We need each other... be there for each other!

### c. It's About Holiness

- i. "Holy"-Ween is an alternative to Halloween
- ii. Living holy is an alternative to living like this world
  1. "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16 NIV)
- iii. How can we live more holy? (2 important reminders)
  1. It's in the little things
    - a. Serving your friends
    - b. Get up earlier for your quiet time
    - c. "Turning the other cheek"
  2. It begins on the inside

"After a violent storm one night, a large tree, which over the years had become a stately giant, was found lying across the pathway in a park. Nothing but a splintered stump was left. Closer examination showed that it was rotten at the core because thousands of tiny insects had eaten away at its heart. The weakness of that tree was not brought on by the sudden storm; it began the very moment the first insect nested within its bark..." (Our Daily Bread)

**Instead of celebrating Halloween this weekend, let's celebrate Holy-Ween, and try to live more holy lives for God!**

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