

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CYPRESS

CITY REACH SERVE POPCORN AS A CHURCH

Friday, September 16 >>> 6:30-9pm
Civic Center Green, 5275 Orange Avenue

The city of Cypress will be showing *Sing 2*. All are invited to attend and bring lawn chairs. Our church will be providing FREE popcorn for attenders. Volunteer with your child, and serve our community! (Sign up @ fbccypress.com/events.)



CYPRESS COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 1 >>> 2-10pm
Oak Knoll Park

Join us Saturday, October 1st to pray with and invite people to Church at our Church Prayer Booth from 2-10 PM. PLEASE SIGN UP by choosing a 1-hour shift(s) and help us reach our community. Or help set up our booth from 10am-2pm. (Sign up @ fbccypress.com/events.)

REACH NIGHT

October 9
6-8:30pm >>> Pastor's house

Join us at the fire pit for a fun night of games, roasted marshmallows & hot dogs, and fellowship. Feel free to invite friends and family outside the church.





CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY

Sundays @ 9:30am

Open to children age 3 - 6th grade. Doughnuts and drinks available each week. We meet in the Children's classroom. Our class is walking through the stories of the Bible chronologically to help children learn the overarching story of God. All of our volunteers are trained and background checked.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN?

If you look into the history of Halloween, it's origin has actually been disputed for quite some time. Believe it or not, Halloween has been historically celebrated on various liturgical calendars over the course of Christian history. The belief that this holiday is a satanic one comes from the widely held belief that Halloween came out of the Celtic harvest festivals, and those festivals may, or may not, have some pagan roots. Did you know that the word *Halloween* actually means "holy evening" and is of Christian origin? I'm not trying to baptize this day into becoming an overtly Christian holiday. I'm just trying to break a stereotype that was created and has kept many, out of fear of being supporters of anything related to Satan, from being a part of Halloween.

Today, the reason people celebrate Halloween has very little to do with its Christian or Celtic origins. Now it is simply a day of dressing up and eating a ridiculous amount of candy. Yes, some still like to get into the scary and spooky of the day, but it is very rarely done in a demonic way.

For Christians, I think it's an important time for us to love others well. It's the one day of the year that our neighbors knock on our doors. I hear people say often that we are called to be "in the world but not of the world" and this phrase confuses me so much. It's not a verse in the Bible; did you know that? We quote it so much in the church that many of us believe it must be somewhere. It originates from Jesus' prayer in John 17. In this prayer Jesus proclaims that He came to them (the disciples) and that He was not of the world, and that His disciples weren't of the world either (v. 14, 16). Then v. 18 says, "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." Hence the saying: in the world, not of the world. However, we've somehow interpreted this to mean that we are in this world, but we aren't to have anything to do with it. If we draw this conclusion, then we've missed v. 15, which states, "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one." Jesus' desire wasn't our removal from the world or those in it. He didn't commission us to be isolated in our safe Christian bubbles. He sent us into the world, and He prayed for our protection from the evil one. We wouldn't need a prayer of protection if we weren't stepping into places where evil was. Let's not step out of this world; it wasn't Jesus' heart.

Read Matthew 5:14-16. My hope for you is that you would see this day, that has so much darkness associated with it, and you would use it to shine brightly for the name of Jesus. My prayer for you is that Jesus would use the light you shine to bring great glory to Him and draw many to Him. They notice your good works. May faith come from them in Jesus' name.

Excerpt taken from ***Sacred Holidays*** by Becky Kiser

