



CALVARY SAN MATEO

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT (Halloween Neighborhood Outreach)

October 31st

The Purpose:

As Christians we do not want to celebrate and condone a Holiday like Halloween, especially what it's become in glorifying death, darkness, and evil. We are also aware that this Holiday presents a unique opportunity for the church because it is an evening where the world comes to your door. Christians have three options when it comes to Halloween, we can receive it, reject it, or try to redeem it.

- **Receive it** — There are some Christians that receive and celebrate the Holiday as-is. They dress up, go trick or treating, go to haunted houses, parties, etc. and their conscience *seems* to be clear in doing that. Considering the death, darkness, and blatant evil that is glorified in this Holiday, we don't see this as a good option that faithful Christians should adopt.
- **Reject it** — There are some Christians who are *rightly* so bothered by Halloween that they want nothing to do with it. They don't want to pass out candy from their house, they don't want to contribute anything at all. While this option is right for some, I find it hard to pretend like this holiday isn't being celebrated, and would instead opt for the next option...
- **Redeem it** — There are yet some Christians who though they are bothered by the darkness that this Holiday glorifies, they want to use this day as an opportunity to inject the Gospel of Christ into. Christians historically have often done this, and by God's grace, have been successful so that a celebration or Holiday becomes known as a Christian Holiday. Afterall, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." (Psalm 24:1)

Therefore, our heart is to REDEEM this day considering the opportunity that it presents to be salt and light in the culture, to be present & available, welcoming, enjoyable, and hand out good news attached to every piece of candy that will be gladly received and, Lord willing, read later on. We understand not everyone will share this opinion and we respect those who'd want to reject it altogether.