

TO:

Dear _____,

As a citizen and Christian who believes that the Bible is God's sole and authoritative criterion for our faith and practices, I request that my children be excused from religious or semi-religious observances, including Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween. I wish them excused from all art work, Christmas plays, play practice and carol singing, classroom parties and other things related to these observances. If you will let me or my wife know, we will keep our children home from school during the peak days of these celebrations or when there is to be a party in connection with one of them.

I am thankful that we live in a country where the civil laws accord us "freedom of religion." To me, our tax supported public schools have no right to join in these observances at all, but I know that it is by popular consent. Though in the minority, I claim the right to have my children excused from these things. I have no objection to them saluting the flag, for I am sure that this is indeed "one nation under God." See Romans 13:1-7. We are not so-called "Jehovah's Witnesses."

Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween are all Roman Catholic and Pagan in origin. I do not believe that their Roman Catholic "baptism" has made them any less pagan and idolatrous.

CHRISTMAS (the mass of Christ - supposedly His birthday) is observed on Dec. 25th, not because Christ was actually born then, but because the pagan, idolatrous sun worshippers used to have their feast of the winter solstice at that time to honor the birth of the sun. The time of the year, the yule-log, the tree and the exchanging of gifts originated hundreds of years before Christ. This pagan festival to the birth of the sun was changed to the festival of the birth of the Son of God by a Roman Catholic pope hundreds of years after Christ was born. Standard encyclopedias bear this all out. The Bible does not tell us when Christ was born; it does not tell us to celebrate His birth; and of course it does not tell us how to celebrate it. We are sure that we should have no part in the Christmas celebration and that we should refuse to allow our children to take part. We realize that this is hard for them at times, especially when they are too young to understand, but we believe that it will not do them irreparable harm, but rather good, as they learn to stand for their beliefs even when those beliefs are unpopular.

VALENTINE was reportedly a Roman Catholic saint and martyr. In 496, Pope Gelasius changed the pagan Roman festival of the Lupercalia of Feb. 15th to St. Valentine's Day on Feb. 14th. Cupid, whose arrows through the heart (pictured on valentine cards) supposedly made people fall in love, was the Roman god of love, son of the goddess, Venus. See the World Book Encyclopedia.

EASTER is the name, in the anglicized form, of the pagan goddess Astarte, Ishtar, Ashtaroth, Ashtoreth, Venus, Diana, etc., whose worship is severely con-

demned in the Bible. See Judges 2:13, 14; 1 Kings 11:4-6; Acts 19:23-41. "Easter," on which day Christ was supposedly resurrected, is a date which shifts each year to coincide with the time of the pagan festival of spring. Lent, the sunrise service, easter bunnies and eggs are all vestiges of ancient paganism. See Ezek. 8:14-18 for a Biblical picture of a sunrise service and of God's condemnation of it. Christians should demonstrate Christ's resurrected life 365 days of the year. They are nowhere in the Bible told to celebrate it each year on a day deliberately chosen to coincide with pagan festivities and called by the name of a filthy pagan goddess. Again see the standard encyclopedias.

HALLOWEEN, The Encyclopedia Britannica informs us: "In its strictly religious aspect, this occasion is known as the vigil of Hallowmas or All Saint's day, Nov. 1, observed by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. Pope Gregory III (731 - 741) assigned this date to all the saints. Gregory the IV extended the feast to the entire church in 834."

"There is little doubt that the Christian (Roman Catholic) church sought to eliminate or supplant the Druid festival of the dead by introducing the alternative observance of All Saints day on November 1."

"AFTER THE REFORMATION, PROTESTANTS REJECTED THIS FEAST ALONG WITH OTHER IMPORTANT ONES SUCH AS CHRISTMAS AND EASTER."

We are sure that the following Bible passages apply to these observances:

JEREMIAH 10:2, "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen." (See verses 2 - 5 for a word picture of the modern Christmas tree.)

I CORINTHIANS 10:14, "Flee from idolatry."

I CORINTHIANS 10:20 - 21, "...the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

II CORINTHIANS 6:16 - 18, "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

EPHESIANS 5:11, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

We trust you can see that our position in these matters has not been hastily nor lightly taken. The Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again. We love Him for what He has done for us and want to be faithful to Him. We will be most happy to discuss the matter further and will appreciate the dismissal of _____ from activities as mentioned earlier. Also we would like him / her excused from all ballroom type dancing because we feel that such dancing contributes to immorality.

Thanking you for your understanding and cooperation, I remain,

Sincerely yours,