

Why Do They ALWAYS Wear Black?

by Tal Davis

Many Goths have no clear spiritual beliefs.

"Hey, Brian," said Mike to his older brother as they walked through the mall. "I saw a group of kids back there. They looked kind of weird."

"What do you mean?" Brian responded.

"They were all dressed in black. The girls had on black dresses. Their hair was all black with purple streaks, and they had black lipstick and fingernail polish. The boys wore black caps and T-shirts with skulls on the front."

"I think they call themselves 'Goths,'" said his brother. "Why do they dress like that?" Mike wondered.

Understanding Goths

Mike and Brian had encountered a group of kids called Goths. They look strange because they usually wear black clothes and color their hair black. Girls usually paint their nails black and wear dark lipstick. Like Mike, you may have seen Goths and wondered who they are and what they believe. The answer is not simple.

The word "Goth" refers to warlike tribes from northern Europe that invaded the ancient Roman Empire. In A.D. 410, they attacked the city of Rome. Some historians say that marked the beginning of what became known as the Dark Ages. The word "Goth" or "Gothic" became identified with darkness, fear, and death.

In the 1800s, books by Mary Shelley (*Frankenstein*), Edgar Allan Poe (*The Raven*), Bram Stoker (*Dracula*), and other Gothic writers had frightening themes which have been adapted for horror movies for decades. Modern authors like Anne Rice (*Interview with the Vampire*) carry on the Gothic tradition.

Goths Need to Know God's Love

Today many teenagers adopt Gothic ways by wearing dark clothing, black lipstick, and so on. There are even rock bands that perform Gothic music. Why this lifestyle appeals to some people is not easy to answer. There is no one reason.

In some cases it is just a faddish way to fit into a group. For others it is a dramatic way of rebelling against society. For some it reflects an unhealthy obsession with evil and death.

Some Christians may think all Goths are devil worshipers or witches. Indeed, some Goths hold those beliefs, but there really is no one belief system that all Goths follow. Many Goths have no clear spiritual beliefs. They are just confused about life.

In any case, many Goths have little or no understanding of the Bible, God, and Jesus. For this reason, if you know kids who look Gothic, don't be afraid to be friendly and talk to them. They are not vampires and don't bite. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with them or invite them to church. Like all of us, they are looking for meaning and purpose in life. Perhaps you can shine God's light into their dark lives. 