

Jesus the One and Only: Jesus Before Tradition

Fiddler on the Roof, Start to 2:38: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDtabTufxao>
Story of The Lord's Prayer Facing Back of Church

Mark 7:1-8 The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, ² and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, *thus* observing the traditions of the elders; ⁴ and *when they come* from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) ⁵ The Pharisees and the scribes *asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" ⁶ And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. ⁷ 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' ⁸ Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

Tradition is made up of things received in order to observe but are not requirements God has for His people.

Tradition is not all bad; some is harmless, and some is really beneficial.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 ¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

Some tradition is just plain weird. Facebook Comments- church

Tradition that sets aside the command of God preferring "the way things have always been done" is detrimental.

Hats in church...

Mark 7:9-13 ⁹ He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, is to be put to death'; ¹¹ but you say, 'If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given *to God*),' ¹² you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother; ¹³ *thus* invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

Religious traditions grow into idols when fluid interpretations slowly solidify into "the only right way to do things".

"Never make a principle out of your experience; let God be as original with other people as He is with you." -Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*

Once traditions take on the same weight as God's Word, they begin to expand and multiply.

Example: Sabbath- Saturday, Sunday, what you can and cannot do, etc.

Mark 2:23-28 ²³ And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads *of grain*. ²⁴ The Pharisees were saying to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ And He *said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; ²⁶ how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar *the* high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for *anyone* to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷ Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Sabbath is God calling man into a delightful rest from all his labors. It was never meant to be a chain around our necks.
Little House in the Big Woods, p.84-89, selected passages (see what "tradition" did to the Lord's Day)

Jesus established that He is in charge of the Sabbath. We rest in a way that honors Him, or it is not a Sabbath.

Is Jesus in charge of your traditions? He wants to make them into something that fulfills the Spirit of the Law, makes you and your loved ones happy, and pleases God.

Tradition not submitted to Jesus leads to hardness of heart, self-justification, and blind hypocrisy.

Matthew 23:23-24 ²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. ²⁴ You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

When religious tradition begins to weigh as much as scripture, we end up straining gnats and swallowing camels!

How to test our traditions:

Is it actually biblical? In other words, is it expressly and clearly taught and modeled in multiple places and passages in the Bible, and especially in the New Testament? If not, we cannot be adamant about it!

Infant baptism, tithing, clerical robes and rehearsed prayers, stained glass, cathedrals, hymns and praise choruses, denominationalism

Many denominations (sanctioned divisions) in Christianity exist because of differences in tradition rather than core beliefs. We couldn't walk in love together because of petty disagreements!

If my preferred tradition is biblical, am I being legalistic (devoted to the letter), or am I considering FIRST the Spirit of the Law (what is MEANT by what is said?)

1 Peter- women and jewelry, braided hair, dresses, etc.

The governing questions for every decision in matters of faith are these:

- Does it please God?
- Does it generally bring joy and peace to myself and others when we practice it?