

Tradition

- How do we feel about this word?
- Is this a good word or a bad one?
- For those who are thinking of Mt 15 or Mk 7, this term has a very negative meaning.

The Traditions of the Elders

- *5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the **tradition of the elders**, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" 6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 For **laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men** — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 He said to them, "**All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.** Mark 7:5-10*

The Problem with Human Tradition

- *Laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men*
- *All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.*
- The traditions of men often lead to God's own laws being set aside.
- When Human tradition replaces God's word the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled again and again
- *Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*
- Human tradition replaces God's words with Man's

The Traditions of Men

- *"Why do Your disciples transgress **the tradition of the elders?** For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." 3 He answered and said to them, "**Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?** 4 For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 5 But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God" — 6 then he need not honor his father or mother.' **Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.** 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 **And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**"" Mt. 15:1-9*

The Problem with Human Tradition

- *"Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"*
- *Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.*
- Two additional problems with human tradition.
- It leads to the transgressions of God's commands

Human Tradition from the Gentiles

- *as obedient children, **not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."** 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from **your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers**, 1 Peter 1:14-19*
- Many of the traditions handed down from those who are not guided by God's word are aimless
- The means to conform to former lusts in ignorance.

The Scriptures Also Demand We Respect Them

- *Therefore, brethren, **stand fast and hold the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.*
2Th. 2:15
- All the new codes of conduct and submission to God are also traditions – We must **seize** and **stand fast** in them
- *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and **not according to the tradition which he received from us.** 7 **For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us,** for we were not disorderly among you; 2Th. 3:6-7*
- Those who do not follow the traditions received from the inspired writers of the NT are walking disorderly.
- We **know** we ought to follow them

What are these Traditions?

- *Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. 1Cor. 11:2-3*
- *But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Cor 11:3-4*
- *Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? 15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering. 1Cor. 11:14-16*
- *Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 1Cor 11:17-19*

Traditions – The New Norms

- We must replace the vain manner of life handed down by tradition of our fathers.
- Replace them with the new traditions handed down from the Scriptures.
- Just as evil conduct can come down by tradition
- Righteous and Holy Conduct can also come down
- The roles of men and women in the church
- The roles of men and women in the home.
- All come down from the Scriptures and must be held fast.
- *Therefore, brethren, **stand fast and hold the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.*

The Broad Nature of Tradition

- *For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Therefore **I urge you, imitate me.** 17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will **remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.** 1Cor. 4:15-17*
- Tradition comes from teaching ... It also comes from imitation. My ways in Christ is not just teaching, it is also example.
- All of the examples recorded in Scripture is tradition to be followed.

Traditions were taught / Received

- Therefore, brethren, ***stand fast and hold the traditions*** which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
- By word ... Book of Acts ... By epistles ... letters.
- ***according to the tradition which he received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 2Th. 3:6-7***
- Do we know how we ought to follow?
- Traditions received from them were not only the commands, but also conduct.
- The Examples of the inspired men in the NT are just as binding as the commands.

Paul's Examples are also Traditions

- Brethren, *join in following my example*, and note those who so walk, as *you have us for a pattern*. Phil. 3:17
- *The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you*. Phil. 4:9
- Paul's life was given as a pattern. As a pattern:
- What we learned and received by his letters
- What we heard and saw in him by his examples in Acts.
- If we follow both of these, the God of peace will be with us.
- The lifestyle of the apostles and prophets is just as important for our understanding of tradition as their commands and letters.

The Importance of Tradition/Exam

- We will have a huge gap in our ability to understand all that God has given to us if we do not see this point.
- This is what Paul commended about Timothy.
- *But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra — what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 2Tim. 3:10-15*

- *9 lest I seem to terrify you by letters. 10 "For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible." 11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present. 2Cor. 10:9-11*
- Conduct and teaching are identical.
- If Paul were present we would see in him all that he taught in his letters.
- There was no difference in the Scriptures.
- What Paul did and what Paul taught ... equally binding and equally traditions we should seize and hold fast.

● *18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "**teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Mt. 28:18-20*

- What they taught others to observe.
- They observed.
- What we observe in what they did is all part of the commands Jesus gave.

Those who reject tradition... Disorderly

- *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from **every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.** 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 2 Thess 3:6-7*
- We must do the same:
- *Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.** ... 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. 1Tim. 4:12-16*