

TRADITION, TRADITIONS AND TRADITIONALISM (1)

Most Americans don't think we have any traditions. We actually have anti-tradition traditions!

1. We **all** have traditions!

Known, unknown, admitted, hidden... Good, bad, & indifferent...

LCBC Sunday Night:

1800-

FBC of Fieldon

1930-

2. We all actually have **more than one kind of tradition**

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast** (στήκετε), and **hold** (κρατείτε) the traditions (τὰς παραδόσεις ἃς ἐδιδάχθητε) which ye have been taught, **whether** by word, **or** our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not **after the tradition** (κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν) which he received of us.

Mark 7:1 Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. **Mark 7:2** And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. **Mark 7:3** For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding **the tradition of the elders** (τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν πρεσβυτέρων). **Mark 7:4** And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. **Mark 7:5** Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples **according to the tradition of the elders** (κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν πρεσβυτέρων), but eat bread with unwashen hands? **Mark 7:6** He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. **Mark 7:7** Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men (ἐντάλματα ἀνθρώπων). **Mark 7:8** For **laying aside the commandment of God** (τὴν ἐντολὴν τοῦ θεοῦ), ye **hold the tradition of men** (τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν ἀνθρώπων), as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. **Mark 7:9** And he said unto them, Full well **ye reject the commandment of God** (τὴν ἐντολὴν τοῦ θεοῦ), **that ye may keep your own tradition** (τὴν παράδοσιν ὑμῶν).

Before we can even have a discussion concerning tradition, traditions, and traditionalism we **must define** our terms!

Un / anti-Biblical or Anti-gospel Traditions:	Non-Biblical / Cultural Traditions:	Application Traditions:	Apostolic Traditions (Scriptural Traditions)
Must change	Can change but...	No / very Slow change	No change

A. Apostolic Tradition

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast** (στήκετε), and **hold** (κρατείτε) the traditions (τὰς παραδόσεις ἃς ἐδιδάχθητε) which ye have been taught, **whether** by word, **or** our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not **after the tradition** (κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν) which he received of us.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

B. Application Tradition

Matthew 28:19 **Go** (Πορευθέντες) ye therefore, and **teach** (μαθητεύσατε) all nations, **baptizing** (βαπτίζοντες) them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Matthew 28:20** **Teaching** (διδάσκοντες) them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

We move from the what to the how.

The how may be nuanced but will inevitably remain very similar!

C. Cultural Traditions

This is almost unlimited and can be fun and funny!

Shoes / No shoes:

Multiple Services:

Evangelistic Service:

Language(s):

D. Unbiblical / Anti-biblical Traditions

Often these are also anti-gospel!

Mark 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. **Mark 7:4** And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brassen vessels, and of tables. **Mark 7:5** Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? **Mark 7:6** He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. **Mark 7:7** Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. **Mark 7:8** For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. **Mark 7:9** And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Colossians 3:11 Where there is **neither** Greek **nor** Jew, circumcision **nor** uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond **nor** free: **but Christ is all, and in all.**

Galatians 3:28 There is **neither** Jew **nor** Greek, there is **neither** bond **nor** free, there is **neither** male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:13** **For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.**

These things tend to be easier to see for an outsider!

Established church in England & Scotland:

Class distinctions were codified, legitimized, and publicized in the physical structure of the church!!!

LCBC 1996

#1 complaint over and over and over till probably 1999-2001

LCBC is not friendly

This is a gospel-issue and an obedience-issue!

Hebrews 3:13 **But exhort one another** daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; **but exhorting one another:** and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Romans 12:13 Distributing to the necessity of saints;
given to hospitality.