

THE TROUBLE WITH TRADITION(S)! MT. 15:1-9

What are the troubles?

1. We **all** have traditions!

Matthew 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Matthew 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Every person, church, culture, subculture...

2. We **cannot not** have traditions!

Conversation...we go to a NonDenom church!

How about a “revivalistic” church?

Traditions:

- We **cannot not** have them!
- They **usually** involve Scripture **and** its application
- They develop, grow, and change unobserved
- They are simply the way we do things
- Often a way for the application of | applying the Bible
- Jewish teaching called this “fencing the law ”

But Pastor Warren I go to a contemporary church...or even an anti-traditional church!

3. Traditions can be used to **test, trap, and ultimately trash people!**

Matthew 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Matthew 15:2 **Why** do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? **for** they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Matthew 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, **and tempting** desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

Matthew 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, **tempting him**, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Matthew 22:16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Matthew 22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

Matthew 22:35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, **tempting him**, and saying,

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

The Scribes & the Pharisees:

- They came from Jerusalem
- They **didn't** come for a visit or sightseeing!
- They came to test, trap & potentially trash Jesus
- I call this “**label & dismiss!**”
- And we all do it to some degree
- These are called “boundary markers”

In group

Out group

There are many common labels to use for “label & dismiss!”

4. Traditions can cause us to transgress God’s word!

(probably also to trivialize & tsk tsk God’s word!)

Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?**

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. **Matthew 15:5** But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; **Matthew 15:6** And honour **not** his father or his mother, he shall be free. **Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 21:17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

Thoughts:

- **We are commanded to honor our parents**
- **This obviously includes financial support**
- **Scripture also allows us to dedicate our money to the Lord**
- **A little trick: it’s the Lord’s money **when I die** → **until then I****
- **So I can’t help my parents**
- **Traditions become tricks**
- **Traditions can also become: **fences around fences around fences****

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. **Matthew 5:44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **John 13:35** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Fencing the law / Scripture = applying the Bible:

No drunkenness 100 %

No drinking 100 % - just takes more understanding & information to get there

No taverns

No clubs

No restaurants that serve alcohol

No family gatherings that have alcohol

No family relationships with those who drink

KJV

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Matthew 28:19** Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Matthew 28:20** **Teaching** 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.

5. Traditions never get to the heart!

Matthew 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **Matthew 15:8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their **mouth**, and honoureth me with their **lips**; **but their heart is far from me.** **Matthew 15:9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.