

Traditions



"GOOD *or* BAD?"

(2 Thessalonians 2:15; Matthew 15:2-9)

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

"TRADITIONAL" CAN BE GOOD OR BAD!

Merriam-Webster

traditional adjective

Definition of *traditional*

1 : of or relating to tradition : consisting of or derived from tradition

a traditional celebration

2 : handed down from age to age

traditional history

traditional songs/stories

3 : following or conforming to tradition : adhering to past practices or established conventions

traditional morality

traditional values/beliefs

employing traditional methods of cooking

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

"TRADITIONAL" CAN BE GOOD OR BAD!

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Strong's Greek #3862

An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words > T > Tradition

Reference

TRADITION

paradosis (παράδοσις, 3862), “a handing down or on” (akin to *paradidomi*, “to hand over, deliver”), denotes “a tradition,” and hence, by metonymy, (a) “the teachings of the rabbis,” interpretations of the Law, which was thereby made void in practice, [Matt. 15:2, 3, 6](#); [Mark 7:3, 5, 8, 9, 13](#); [Gal. 1:14](#); [Col. 2:8](#); (b) of “apostolic teaching,” [1 Cor. 11:2](#), RV, “traditions” (KJV, “ordinances”), of instructions concerning the gatherings of believers (instructions of wider scope than ordinances in the limited sense); in [2 Thess. 2:15](#), of Christian doctrine in general, where the apostle’s use of the word constitutes a denial that what he preached originated with himself, and a claim for its divine authority (cf. *paralambano*, “to receive,” [1 Cor. 11:23; 15:3](#)); in [2 Thess. 3:6](#), it is used of instructions concerning everyday conduct.¶

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

"TRADITIONAL" CAN BE GOOD OR BAD!

RIGHT

Synonymous With
the Word Of God,
God's Commands,
Apostolic
Teachings,
Doctrine, of Christ,
God's Precepts,
Etc.; Thus, Must Be
Faithfully Obeyed!
**(1 Cor. 11:2;
2 Thes. 2:15; 3:6)**

WRONG

Traditions that
Originate With Men
And Are Elevated
Above God's Word
Denotes hurtful,
human traditions
that are
condemned —
(Mat 15:3; Col 2:8).

NEUTRAL

Things done to
fulfill a
commandment of
God when the
"HOW" is NOT
specified. (i.e.
Expediency);
**SUCH, Cannot Be
Bound**

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

"TRADITIONAL" CAN BE GOOD OR BAD!



What is the source of the TRADITION (teaching or practice)?

Matthew 21:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ ... I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: ²⁵ The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" ...

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

AUTHORIZED "TRADITIONS" ARE GOOD!

IS IT FROM HEAVEN?



If it is from heaven, it is found in the scriptures!

If it is approved of by heaven, it will be authorized by scripture (C.E.N.I.)

Hebrews 1:1,2

Matthew 28:19

John 16:13

Acts 2

1 Corinthians 2:13

Ephesians 3:3-5

2 Timothy 3:16,17



Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

GOD GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE KEPT!

IS IT FROM HEAVEN?



**APOSTOLIC
TEACHING**

**1 Corinthians 11:2
(NKJV)**

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered *them* to you. (cf. 11:23)

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

GOD GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE KEPT!

IS IT FROM HEAVEN?



**APOSTOLIC
TEACHING**

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

GOD GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE KEPT!

IS IT FROM HEAVEN?



**APOSTOLIC
TEACHING**

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ 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.

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

GOD GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE KEPT!

IS IT FROM HEAVEN?



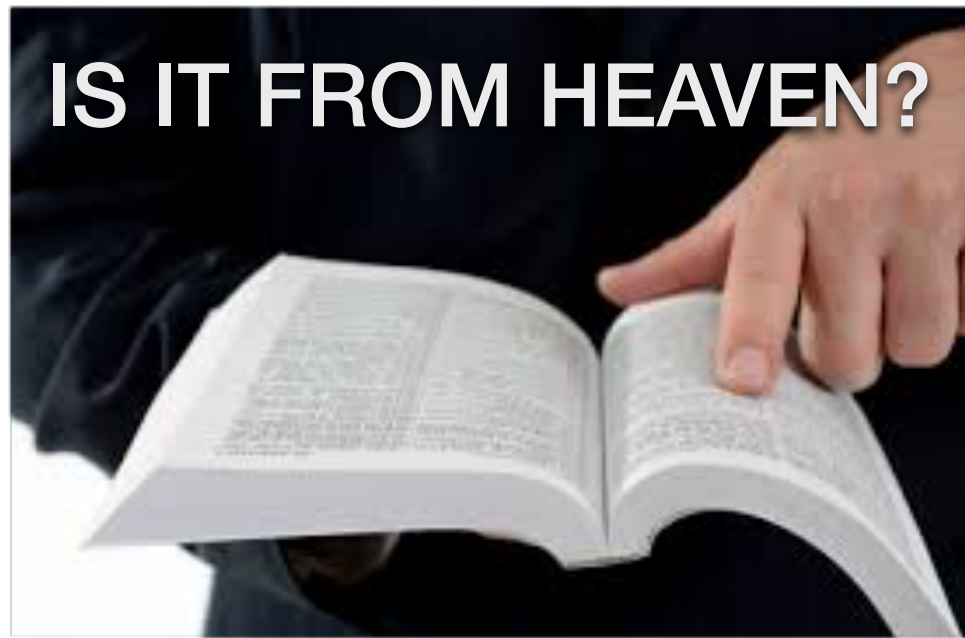
**APOSTOLIC
TEACHING**

- **Marriage** between one man and one woman for life — Gen. 1:27; 2:24; Mat. 19:3-9; Eph. 5:31; Heb 13:4
- **Family Roles** — Eph 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Pet 3:1-7
- **Submitting to governing authority** — Mat. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet 3:13-17
- **Love your neighbor** — Matt. 22:39; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

GOD GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE KEPT!

IS IT FROM HEAVEN?



**APOSTOLIC
TEACHING**

- **Plan of SALVATION** — *Hear* - Romans 10:17; *believe* - John 8:24; *repent* - Acts 17:30; *confess* - Rom. 10:9; *baptism* - Acts 2:38; *endurance* - Heb 10:35,36
- **The oneness of the Lord's church** — Mat. 16:18; Eph 1:22,23; 4:4; 5:23-27
- **The organization of local churches** — Phili 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-3

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

GOD GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE KEPT!

IS IT FROM HEAVEN?



**APOSTOLIC
TEACHING**

- **Assemble together** — Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:26; Heb 10:25
- **Worship in spirit & truth** — John 4:24; Heb 12:28,29
- ▶ **Pray together** — Acts 4:24ff
- ▶ **Edify by teaching** — 1 Cor 14
- ▶ **Giving** — 1 Cor. 16:1,2
- ▶ **Lord's supper** — 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- ▶ **Singing together** — Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

UNAUTHORIZED "TRADITIONS" ARE BAD!

Matthew 15:1-14

Mark 7:1-13

Galatians 1:13,14

Colossians 2:8

1 Peter 1:18

Galatians 1:6-9

2 John 9,10



Commandments
of men make
WORSHIP VAIN

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

MAN GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE REJECTED!

Matthew 15:3–9 (NKJV)

³ "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?⁶ ...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.'* "



**Commandments
of men make
WORSHIP VAIN**

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

MAN GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE REJECTED!

Colossians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.



**Commandments
of men make
WORSHIP VAIN**

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

MAN GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE REJECTED!

- **Catholicism** — 2 The. 2:1-12
- **Denominationalism** — John 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; etc
- **Unbiblical organization** — 3 Jn 9; Acts 20:29,30
- **Salvation by FAITH ALONE** — Eph. 2:8,9; James 2:14-26; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; etc.
- **Rejection of the need for Biblical authority** — Col. 3:17; 2 Jn 9; Rom 10:17; etc.



**Commandments
of men make
WORSHIP VAIN**

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

MAN GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE REJECTED!

- **Unbiblical worship** — Eph 5:19; Mat. 15:7-9; etc.
- ▶ **Vain repetitions** — Mat 6:7
- ▶ **Corruption of the Lord's supper** — 1 Cor. 11:20-26
- ▶ **Tithing** — 1 Cor 16:1,2
- ▶ **Adding instruments to singing** — Ep 5:19; Col 3:16
- ▶ **Not teaching the word of God — Women preaching** — 2 Tim 4:2-4 — 1 Cor 14:34
- ▶ **Holidays** — Gal. 4:10,11



**Commandments
of men make
WORSHIP VAIN**

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

MAN GIVEN "TRADITIONS" MUST BE REJECTED!

- Unauthorized work — Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 20:28
- ▶ General, unlimited benevolence — Acts 2:44; 1 Tim. 5:3-11; etc.
- ▶ Recreation & entertainment — 2 Tim 3:4; 2 John 2:15-17
- ▶ Individual & congregational responsibilities shifted to unscriptural organizations & institutions — Gal. 6:1-10; Eph. 3:10; 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Pt 5:2



**Commandments
of men make
WORSHIP VAIN**

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

"TRADITIONAL" IS NEITHER GOOD OR BAD!



What is the source of the TRADITION (teaching or practice)?

Is it REQUIRED or merely ALLOWED? (Rom 14; 1 Cor 8:13)

1 Corinthians 8:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

NEUTRAL "TRADITIONS" MUST NOT
BE BOUND AS DIVINE LAW

A close-up photograph of a person's hand pointing to a specific line of text in an open book. The book is held open, and the hand is positioned over the right page. The background is dark, making the white pages of the book stand out.

EXPEDIENTS ARE
GOOD If NOT ABUSED

**MUST BE
AUTHORIZED**

- **Assemble together** — time on Lord's day / number of times / midweek? - Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:26; Heb 10:25
- **Worship in spirit & truth** — order of services / # of songs / # of prayers / preaching or teaching - John 4:24; Heb 12:28,29
- **Work of the church** — Evangelism / Edification / Benevolence — who, how, when, how much ...

Traditions "GOOD or BAD?"

"TRADITIONAL" CAN BE GOOD OR BAD!

RIGHT

Synonymous With
the Word Of God,
God's Commands,
Apostolic
Teachings,
Doctrine, of Christ,
God's Precepts,
Etc.; Thus, Must Be
Faithfully Obeyed!
**(1 Cor. 11:2;
2 Thes. 2:15; 3:6)**

WRONG

Traditions that
Originate With Men
And Are Elevated
Above God's Word

Denotes hurtful,
human traditions
that are
condemned —
(Mat 15:3; Col 2:8).

NEUTRAL

Things done to
fulfill a
commandment of
God when the
"HOW" is NOT
specified. (i.e.
Expediency);
**SUCH, Cannot Be
Bound**

Philippians 2:1-5

Does Order Matter?

Check Mark 16:16 and pick the correct letter!



1. He that is baptized
 2. Shall be saved
 3. And later believes
-



1. He that believes
 2. Shall be saved
 3. And later is baptized
-



1. He that believes
2. And is baptized
3. Shall be saved

Traditions

"GOOD *or* BAD?"

(2 Thessalonians 2:15; Matthew 15:2-9)

Charts by Don McClain

Preached October 14, 2018

West 65th Street church of Christ/ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Our Website: w65stchurchofchrist.com

MARK 7:5-13 (NKJV)

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.’

MARK 7:5-13 (NKJV)

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.*” ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘*Honor your father and your mother*’; and, ‘*He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.*’

MARK 7:5-13 (NKJV)

¹¹ But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me *is* Corban"—' (that is, a gift *to* God), ¹² then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, ¹³ making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."