

Hold The Traditions

- Biblical Traditions vs. Human Traditions
- Why Christians Must Hold the Traditions of God
- How to Hold the Traditions Faithfully Today
- Dangers of Failing to Hold the Traditions

God has always desired, that His people cling to His revealed will, and never replace it, with their own ideas.

The apostles were entrusted with the Lord's will, and they delivered it faithfully. Christians, in turn, are commanded to "hold the traditions" ([2Thess.2:15](#))—that is, the inspired teachings passed down from God, NOT the traditions of men.

This lesson will explore

- what it means to "hold the traditions,"
- how to distinguish God-given traditions from human inventions,
- and why this distinction is essential for faithful living today.

As we begin, let us first understand what God means, by the word "traditions" in Scripture.

I. Understanding Biblical Traditions vs. Human Traditions

To appreciate the importance of, holding God's traditions, we must start, by learning the difference, Scripture makes.

A. God-Given Traditions, Are Inspired Teachings, Delivered Through the Apostles

Paul writes to remind the early church, that what he taught, came from divine authority—not human reasoning.

- He said, "Therefore, brethren, **stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.**" ([2Thess.2:15](#))

Explanation:

- "Traditions" means, that which is delivered—God's revealed teachings.
- "Stand fast" means, to remain fixed and unmoved.

Paul commends the Corinthians, for remembering and holding, what he delivered to them, from the Lord.

- He said, "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the **ordinances**, as I delivered them to you." ([1Cor.11:2](#))

Explanation:

- "Ordinances" means, authoritative instructions.
- These were not Paul's personal ideas, but the Lord's Will, delivered through him.

Paul explains how he received the gospel message—not from men, but by revelation.

- He said, "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel, which was preached of me, is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." ([Gal.1:11-12](#))

Explanation:

- "Revelation" means, a revealing by God.
- This confirms the divine origin of apostolic tradition.

Jude reminds Christians, that the faith was fully delivered once for all time.

- He said, "...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith, which was **once delivered** unto the saints." ([Jude vs.3](#))

Explanation:

- "Once delivered" means, it was completely given—no additions needed or allowed.

Paul instructs,

- **“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession, before many witnesses.”** ([1Tim.6:12](#))

Explanation:

- **“Fight the good fight of faith”**, speaks of an ongoing spiritual struggle.
- **“Lay hold on eternal life”**, emphasizes that faith requires deliberate effort and perseverance.
- Paul is calling Christians to active, earnest devotion.

The Bible says,

- **“Hold fast, the form of sound words... That good thing, which was committed unto thee, KEEP...”** ([2Tim.1:13-14](#))

Explanation:

- **“Hold fast”** means, to cling firmly and unwaveringly.
- **“The form of sound words”**, refers to the exact pattern of teaching, revealed by God.
- **“Keep”** means, to guard carefully, like something precious and entrusted to your care.

Picture a relay race, where a runner hands the baton to the next runner. If the baton is dropped or replaced with another object, the race is lost.

- God has handed us His Word, as the baton.
- Our job is not to alter it—but to take it securely and run with it.

Having seen, what God-given tradition is, we now look, at the contrast Scripture draws.

B. Human Traditions Are Without Divine Authority and Must Be Rejected

Jesus rebuked religious leaders, for replacing God’s commands, with their own traditions.

- He said, **“Howbeit in VAIN do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men. For Laying Aside the commandment of God, ye Hold the tradition of men...”** ([Mk.7:7-9](#))

Explanation:

- **“In vain”** means, empty, useless.
- When men elevate their own practices, true worship becomes worthless.

Paul warns Christians, not to be spiritually robbed, by human inventions.

- He said, **“Beware lest any man spoil you, through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men... and not after Christ.”** ([Col.2:8](#))

Explanation:

- **“Spoil”** means, to plunder, to carry off as captive.
- Human tradition enslaves, while God’s word liberates.

Jesus describes how traditions, can nullify God’s Word.

- He said, **“Making the word of God of none effect, through your tradition...”** ([Mk.7:13](#))

Explanation:

- **“None effect”** means, to invalidate.
- Human doctrines, cancel out obedience.

Human tradition, is like adding ingredients, to a perfectly balanced recipe.

No matter how well-intended, every addition changes the flavor—and ruins the dish.

God’s Word needs nothing from us.

Now that we see the difference, between divine and human tradition, the next consideration becomes:

II. Why Christians Must Hold the Traditions of God

Let's consider the reasons the Scriptures give, for holding the traditions.

A. Because They Produce Spiritual Stability and Faithfulness

God's Word strengthens and roots His people.

- "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye IN Him: **ROOTED** and built up IN Him ..." ([Col.2:6-7](#))

Explanation:

- "Rooted" means, firmly anchored.
- God's traditions, keep our faith from being uprooted.

David trusted God's Word as absolutely dependable.

- He said, "The **SUM** of Thy word is truth; And every one of Thy righteous ordinances, endureth for ever." ([Psa.119:160](#) ASV)

Explanation:

- "Sum", from the Hebrew word "reshith" means, "beginning" (KJV) or "sum/totality" (ASV)
- So, the total of God's revealed word is truth — every part of it (the sum).
- And God's Word has always been true (from the beginning).

Because "every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever,"

Christians can depend on Scripture, as the unchanging foundation of faith, stability, and spiritual certainty.

A second reason, we must hold God's traditions is...

B. Because They Are Delivered by Divine Authority, Not Human Opinion

Jesus, the Son of God, possesses all authority.

- The Bible says, "Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power** is given unto Me, in heaven and in earth." ([Matt.28:18](#))

Explanation:

- "All power" means, all authority.

The apostles spoke, by that same authority.

- The Bible says, "...when ye received the word of God, which ye heard of us... it is in truth, the word of God..." ([1Thess.2:13](#))

Explanation:

- Paul clarifies that gospel preaching, carries divine authority.

We hold God's traditions, because the message comes from the throne of heaven —NOT from the thoughts of men ([Isa.55:8-9](#)).

A third reason, of why Christians must hold the traditions of God, follows naturally.

C. Because They Protect Us From Apostasy

Departing from truth, begins when one departs, from the commandments of God.

- “Whosoever **transgresseth**, and abideth not, in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God...” (2Jn.vs.9)

Explanation:

- “**Transgresseth**” means, to go beyond, to step over the line.

Jesus prayed for unity—something human tradition destroys.

- He said, “for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the **truth**.
²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me, through their **word**;
²¹ that they all, may be **one**; as thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be **one** in us: that the world may believe, that Thou hast sent Me.” (Jn.17:19-21)

Explanation:

- True unity, is found only within God’s Word (Eph.4:11-13; Eph.4:3-6).

Every departure—whether in worship, doctrine, morality, or organization—began when men preferred their own traditions, above God’s revealed will.

Having learned why we must hold God’s traditions, we move now, to our next major point.

III. How to Hold the Traditions Faithfully Today

The Scriptures give practical direction, on how to do this.

A. By Being People of the Book

Israel fell because they neglected God’s Word.

- God said, “My people are **DESTROYED** (that is, cut off or ruined) for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6)

Christians must study diligently.

- “**STUDY** to shew thyself approved unto God...” (2Tim.2:15a)

Explanation:

- “**Study**” means, to be diligent, to make every effort.

A Bible that remains closed, will always open the door, for man-made tradition to enter.

Closely tied to this, is the responsibility to apply Scripture properly (“handling aright the word” 2Tim.2:15).

B. By Refusing to Elevate Any Human, Above What Is Written

Paul urged disciples not to follow personalities.

- “...not to think of men, above that which is written...” (1Cor.4:6)

Explanation:

- This command, places Scripture above all human influence.

Christ demands first place, over all relationships.

- “He that loveth father or mother more than Me, is not worthy of Me...” (Matt.10:37)

Reflection:

- Following truth, may require standing against those closest to us.

When people have more influence over our thinking, than God’s Word, man-made tradition takes root.

Another practice, which helps keep us faithful is,

C. Contending Earnestly for the Faith

Jude urges Christians to defend the gospel.

- "...earnestly **contend** for the faith..." ([Jude vs.3](#))

Explanation:

- "**Contend**" means, to struggle for, to defend intensely.

Paul sets the example of bold defense of the gospel.

- He said, "...I am **set**, for the defence of the gospel." ([Phil.1:17](#))

Explanation:

- "**Set**" means, appointed, determined

Truth must not only be held—it must be defended.

When God's traditions are challenged, Christians lovingly—but firmly—stand with God, through Scripture, And this requires proving or testing all things ([1Thess.5:21](#); [2Cor.13:5](#); [Lam.3:40](#); [Gal.6:3-4](#); [Jas.1:23-25](#)).

With all these truths in mind, we now consider,

IV. Dangers of Failing to Hold the Traditions

Scripture reveals several consequences, of letting go of God's traditions.

A. Traditions of Men Lead to Vain Worship

God said of Israel in the O.T. days,

- "This people draw near with their mouth, and with their lips do honour Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me, is taught by **the precept of men**." ([Isa.29:13](#); [Matt.15:9](#))

Explanation:

- Israel's worship looked sincere, but their hearts were distant from God.
- Their devotion was shaped by "**the precept of men**"—human rules replacing divine instruction.

In addition to producing vain worship, human traditions create an even more serious danger

B. Traditions of Men Corrupt the Gospel

Paul warns against altering the gospel.

- "...if any man preach any other gospel... let him be **accursed**." ([Gal.1:8-9](#))

Explanation:

- "**Accursed**" means, under divine condemnation.

And when the purity of the gospel is corrupted, the next consequence, naturally follows

C. Traditions of Men Divide Believers

The early church was threatened by division.

And so, they were instructed...

- "...that ye all speak the same thing..." ([1Cor.1:10](#))

Explanation:

- Unity depends on a shared standard—God's Word.

But the danger does not stop with division;

D. Traditions of Men, Leads to Moral Corruption

Paul describes sinful behaviors, often excused by worldly tradition.

- He said, "...they which do such things, shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (read [Gal.5:19-21](#))

Explanation:

- Sin tolerated through man-made tradition, still results in judgment.

Whenever God's Word is replaced, minimized, ignored, or blended with human ideas — souls are lost. Only by holding God's traditions, can Christians remain faithful.

V. Final Thoughts

When we "**hold the traditions**" ([2Thess.2:15](#))

we hold the very teachings of Christ, delivered through the apostles.

- **God-given tradition**, brings unity, salvation, strength, and clarity.
- **Human traditions**, bring confusion, division, vain worship, and spiritual ruin.

The lesson is simple:

- Hold tightly to what God revealed.
- Release anything, that man has invented.

If you need to return to God's Word today—He still lovingly calls.

Believe in Christ ([Heb.11:6](#)), **repent** of sins ([Lk.13:3](#)), **confess** your faith ([Acts 8:37](#)), and be **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins ([Acts 22:16](#); [Mk.16:16](#)).

Come without delay,
While we stand and while we sing.