

Traditions

Matt. 15:3; 2 Thess. 2:15

Introduction:

- A. Different kinds of traditions - else Bible contradictory.
- B. "Tradition" simply means a handing down.
- C. Churches sometimes disturbed by "tradition busters."
- D. Three basic kinds of traditions.

Discussion:

I. Divine Traditions of God.

- A. We must keep such traditions. (1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6).
- B. Examples of such traditions.
 - 1. Baptism (emersion) in water. (Rom. 6:4; 1 Pet. 3:21; Matt. 28:18-20).
 - 2. Items of worship.
 - a. Singing. (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19).
 - b. Preaching. (2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:7ff).
 - c. Praying. (Acts 2:42)
 - d. Lord's Supper on first day of week. (Acts 20:7).
 - e. Collections on first day of week. (1 Cor. 16:1,2).
 - 3. Items of Christian's conduct.
 - a. Working for living, rather than free loading. (2 Thess. 3:6-9)
 - b. Doing good as have opportunity. (Gal. 6:10).

II. Harmful Traditions of Men.

- A. These are condemned in N. T. (Col. 2:8; Matt. 15; 1 Pet. 1:18)
- B. These have religious significance.
- C. Examples of such traditions.
 - 1. Jewish traditions.
 - a. Washing traditions.
 - b. Sabbath traditions.
 - c. "Escape" traditions. (Matt. 15:3-6; 23:16-22).
 - 2. Modern traditions.
 - a. Catholic traditions.
 - b. Protestant traditions.

III. Innocent Traditions of Men.

- A. These have to do with methods and procedures.
- B. These have no religious significance.
- C. Examples of such traditions.
 - 1. The order and time of services
 - 2. The methods of distributing Lord's Supper.
 - 3. The methods of gathering the contribution.
 - 4. The means and methods connected with baptism.
 - 5. The ways and means of preaching and edifying.
 - a. Wednesday night classes.
 - b. Gospel meetings - length.
- D. Such traditions may be useful.
 - 1. May have been well thought out by those who started them.
 - 2. May contribute to orderliness and understanding.
 - 3. Changing them for sake of change may be even harmful.
 - 4. Changes will then become basis for traditions of future.
 - 5. "If it ain't broke don't fix it".

Conclusion:

- A. Should we abandon traditions? It depends on their origin and nature.
- B. In dealing with traditional means and methods, use wisdom and charity.