

Why do you **break** the **COMMANDMENT OF GOD** for the sake of **your TRADITION?**

(Matthew 15:3)

*Tradition! Tradition! Tradition! Tradition! Tradition! Tradition...
To have the final word at home? The Papa, the Papa! Tradition.
The Papa, the Papa! Tradition... So, Papa's free to read the holy
book? The Mama, the Mama! Tradition! The Mama, the Mama!
Tradition... ("Tradition" from Fiddler on the Roof).*

"Now in holding to the tradition of the elders, the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat until they wash their hands ceremonially" (Mark 7:3).

"For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition" (Mark 7:8).

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by me" (Matthew 15:8-9 quoted from Isaiah 29:13).

So, why ignore the commandment of God to uphold the traditions of men?

- **Everyone around them is doing it; it must be right:** Christians are too weak to investigate scripture and test their findings. **"Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said"** (I Corinthians 14:29).

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

- **Their relationship with God is fleeting, often superficial:** "What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears" (Hosea 6:4).
- **They do not fear God:** "And the LORD commanded us to **do ALL these statutes, to fear the LORD our God**, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day" (Deuteronomy 6:24).

"Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly. But it will not be well for the evil man



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and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God” (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13).

- **They put their trust in their teachers to preach the truth:** “My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit’s power**, so that **your faith would not rest on men’s wisdom**, but on **God’s power**. Among the mature, however, we speak a message of wisdom—but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing” (I Corinthians 2:4-6).

“Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So, they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals” (Ezekiel 34:2, 4-5).

“I am astonished that **you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel**—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to **distort the gospel of Christ**. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6-9).

“Dear friends, **do not believe every spirit**, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, because **many false prophets have gone out into the world**” (I John 4:1).

“It is **better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man**. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes” (Psalm 118:8-9).

- **They pledge their allegiance to their church, their traditions over God:** “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, **“I follow Paul,”** or **“I follow Apollos,”** or **“I follow Cephas,”** or **“I follow Christ.”** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (I Corinthians 1:10-13).

To the Sardis church: “I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God” (Revelation 3:1-2).

To the Laodicean church: “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For **you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing**, not realizing that **you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked**. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent” (Revelation 3:15-21).

- **Keep the traditions of God:**

- **The 10 Commandments, statutes, decrees, and judgments carefully** “I am the LORD your God; follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 20:19, Ezekiel 36:27).
- **The Feasts of the LORD** “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are **My feasts**’” (Leviticus 23:23).
- **The spirit of the law** “For what the Law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, as an offering for sin. He thus condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous standard of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who **do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh; but those who **live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit**” (Romans 8:3-5).

- **Ways to please God:**

- **Have faith in God.** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).
- **Be spiritually minded.** “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:6-8).
- **Fear God.** “The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy” (Psalm 147:11).
- **Follow Christ’s example.** “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5).
- **Obey God.** “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice” (1 Samuel 15:22).
- **Do God’s Will.** “[May God] make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:21).
- **Give the sacrifice God wants.** “Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:15-16).

<https://lifelifeandtruth.com/god/who-is-god/7-ways-to-please-god/>

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich with gratitude from lifelifeandtruth.com for their insight on ways to please God.