

Easter; Tradition of God or Man?

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Intro_

Today is the day that a great majority of people, mostly self-professed Christians flock to their local churches in celebration of a holiday called Easter. I find that many people who celebrate this holiday and its supplementary practices are not aware of their origins; origins supported by denominationalism, but mostly by the Catholic faith. This holiday, is used as a worship celebration centrally focused on Jesus Christ serving as the Passover Lamb and His resurrection from death. Without a doubt, every member here believes and will confess whole-heartedly that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was crucified for the forgiveness of our sins, was laid to rest in His tomb, and in three days He demonstrated His Lordship over death; Jesus Christ resurrected! But I ask you, is it holy (is it bible approved) to celebrate the tradition of Easter along with all of its religious embellishments?

Passover

Easter is not a single day celebration. Easter Sunday, in the manner the World observes it, is the conclusion of a long celebrated act of worship instituted by the Catholic Church and performed by many more denominations. The word Easter is found in the bible in [Acts 12:4](#). If we look at the meaning of the word and many other translations it is the Passover. The Passover occurred in Exodus 12 when Israel was to be delivered from death and from bondage. The final plague that the Lord used to free Israel was the death of the firstborn of Egypt. Only those who partook of the Passover feast, and who offered blood of a lamb on their doorposts were spared from death. [Ex 12:7](#) *"And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it."* It was eaten with "unleavened bread" and "bitter herbs" according to [verse 8](#). And according to [verse 11](#) *"And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover."* This feast was celebrated annually from that day forward by the Jewish nation.

In the New Testament the Lord Jesus Christ established a new Passover. [Lk 22:14-20](#). This Passover feast is known as the Lord's Supper. Christians are commanded to perform the acts of eating unleavened bread and drinking the fruit of the vine on the first day of the week following the apostolic example of [Acts 20:7](#). This we do in remembrance that he initially saved us from sin by means of the plan of salvation and also as a sign of our complete redemption in the day when His indignation passed over the Church in judgement.

As with Christmas, the World has converted Easter into an annual holiday and has been embellished with its own mascot (the Easter Bunny), parties, melodramas, and good times. It is nothing like the Passover in both Old and New Testaments. In the OT, bitter herbs were eaten with the Passover lamb. Today, nothing but tasty morsels and mouthfuls of goodies are consumed. In Christ's' day, as it should be today, unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. Today, barbecue and apple pie, and a good show at church (as it is commonly called)!

A Breakdown of the Secular Easter Celebration

Let's discuss a brief summary of the entire Easter celebration that is practiced by denominationalism.

Ash Wednesday

This is the start of the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays. During this time some people place ashes on their foreheads as an act of remorse. Ash Wednesday claims to proceed from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes that are used are made from the supposed blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with what is believed to be “holy water” and are scented by exposure to incense.

It is true that the bible records dust and ashes being used by our forefathers of faith as symbols of repentance. Fasting was also common as a sign of sacrifice. [2Sam 12:16](#) records “*David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth*”. [Job 42:6](#) “*Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*” The attempt to make Ash Wednesday a holy (sanctified) day, that is, a day that is set apart for a special purpose may appear to have some religious foundation, but if this day was meant to be celebrated in this manner, wouldn’t it be recorded or commanded by at least one of the apostles in the New Testament? The gospel does however, address how Christians in mourning and fasting should properly present themselves. [Mat 6:16-18](#).

Moreover, if it is to be a holy, solemn and sanctified day for repentance and drawing closer to God, I find it a bit suspect that this year I saw on the news there were many churches (including local churches) offering drive-through and ashes-to-go service for ash Wednesday; boasting the convenience of their services.

Lent

Lent is the name for the forty days that begins with Ash Wednesday. It was established at the first council of Nicaea in 325 CE. It generally marks a time of prayer and fasting commemorating Christ's forty days in the wilderness. It ends on the Thursday before “Easter Sunday”. During the time of lent people give up or try to sacrifice something for Christ’s sake. Mostly, people are supposed to sacrifice an indulgence of the flesh for forty days.

According to these people, the number forty in the bible to represents rejuvenation, Remember the forty days and forty nights of Noah’s flood, the forty years that Israel wandered in the desert, and the forty days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. So again, we see that the attempt is made to clothe “Lent” with biblical holiness! But again, I ask if this was meant to be completed as a form of worship to God, wouldn’t it be recorded as an example or commanded by at least, one of the apostles in the New Testament? We know and it is admitted that this practice was not established by Jesus, nor the Apostles, but by men. The apostle Paul warns faithful Christians to keep from the traditions of men in [Col 2:8](#). Rather he urges us to keep the traditions established by the Lord’s true council; [2Thess 3:6](#).

Good Friday

This is the Friday before Easter and is believed to be the day Jesus was crucified on the cross. The focus of this day for most denominations is the Crucifixion. To remember the cross of Christ and His passion should be a daily occurrence for Christians. Many attempt to use [Colossians 2:16](#) to justify practicing Good Friday, as a matter of personal preference. But Paul in the context of Colossians 2:16 is teaching that Christians

are not subject to the prior holy days or Jewish traditions as these things were done away with by the cross according to **verse 14** *“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross”*.

The Resurrection

The final day of the celebration of the Easter holiday is Easter Sunday. This is meant to celebrate, remember and worship God with a special day in honor of His resurrection. Many of the principles that we have established already with the rest of this holiday continue to apply. Ask yourself, does the Lord approve of the Easter holiday and all of its facets as being a valid form of worship? No. Nowhere in the scripture are we commanded to practice such a holiday and nowhere is there found an example of this holiday being practiced by the primitive Church.

Mingling secular traditions, with Biblical truth is known as syncretism. This is an abomination to God. Who is man, that believes it holy and sanctified to change (add to or remove from) the Lord's Word? Only man would be so proud as to think that the work of his own hand is equal to that of God's.

Conclusion

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a wondrous historical fact! Only the Son of God could conquer death! The resurrection of Christ is the basis and foundation of our faith according to **1Cor 15:12-14**. And only the Word (which was, and is), could put all things under His feet, establishing victory over sin and death according to **verses 26-27**. Only the Lord can establish what is Holy and that which is sanctified. Men have no authority to establish a form of worship or introduce doctrines of their own design. This is what the Easter holiday, and all of its surrounding events, is; a worship and design of man and not God.

If you would like to keep true Christian traditions; those traditions of the Lord established by the Apostles and confirmed by Christ, you can do so by becoming a member of this church. Confess the Lord Jesus Christ and be baptized today.

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