

We are to place other people before ourselves.

Live in harmony with one another... Romans 12:16 (ESV)

We are to put up with one another in love.

...bearing with one another in love, Ephesians 4:2 (ESV)

We are to be quick to forgive one another and not hold a grudge.

...forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

Application

1. While traditions are not wrong, we need to be careful of the place we give them. When we give traditions as much authority as the Bible, they will lead us away from the Bible.
2. At CrossWinds, we don't want to be a church known for following traditions of the past or for chasing fads of the future. We want to be known for obeying what the Bible tells us, which is loving, serving, caring, forgiving, being patient with others, and putting them before ourselves.

Life Group Questions

Read Mark 7:1-13 to familiarize yourself with the passage.

2. What are examples you have seen tradition taking on too much authority?
3. Not all traditions are bad. What good traditions are found in the Bible and outside the Bible that are worth maintaining?
4. The Roman Catholic Church gives church tradition and the Bible the same level of authority. How has that led the Roman Catholic Church away from the Bible? How can Protestants do the same thing?
5. What traditions do these verses tell us are important to follow? (1 Corinthians 11:2, 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Corinthians 11:23).
6. What do these verses teach us about traditions we should let go? (Colossians 2:20-22, Colossians 2:8, Galatians 4:9-11, Mark 7:1-9) How do we determine what traditions to keep and what traditions to let go? Are there any traditions you should keep or let go of in your life?



Mark 7:1-13 – Jesus Takes On Tradition

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The Pharisees and scribes criticized Jesus' disciples for not following their tradition.

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, Mark 7:1 (ESV)

...they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. Mark 7:2 (ESV)

(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) Mark 7:3-4 (ESV)

And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" Mark 7:5 (ESV)

"The words of the scribes are more lovely than the words of the Law... It is a greater crime to transgress the words of the school of Rabbi Hillel than the words of Scripture... My son, attend to the words of the scribes more than the words of the law." (Talmud)

"Whoever is firmly implanted in the land of Israel, who speaks the holy language, who eats his food in purity [as required by hand-washing rituals], and recites the Shema morning and evening, is assured of life in the world to come" (Shabbat 1:3)

Whoever has his abode in the land of Israel and eats his food with washed hands may rest assured that he shall receive eternal life.
(Rabbi Tahaneth)

Jesus disagreed with traditions that were given authority equal to God's word.

And he 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; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!" Mark 7:6–9 (ESV)

Lip worship that is not heart worship, is useless worship.

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" Mark 12:29–30 (ESV)

Traditions that take on as much authority as the Bible, will lead us away from the Bible.

Coban is an illustration of tradition coming before the Bible in Jesus' day.

For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban" ' (that is, given to God) — then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do." Mark 7:10–13 (ESV)

The Catholic Church is an illustration of tradition coming before the Bible in church history.

"Consequently it is not from sacred Scripture alone that the Church draws her certainty about everything which has been revealed. Therefore both sacred Tradition and sacred Scripture are to be accepted and venerated with the same devotion and reverence."
<https://www.catholic.com/tract/scripture-and-tradition>

"It is an article of faith from a decree of the Vatican Council that Tradition is a source of theological teaching distinct from Scripture, and that it is infallible. It is therefore to be received with the same internal assent as Scripture, for it is the word of God."
(Attwater, p. 41). Catholic Scholar

Too high a view of tradition led to the Catholic Church having a different Bible.

What are protestant traditions are occasionally placed in front of the Bible?

One Cup Communion vs. Multiple Little Cups

Sunday Night Services

The Presence of a Pulpit

A Church Worship Style of the Past or of the Future

What does the Bible say is more important than our traditions?

We are to love one another.

...this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3:11 (ESV)

We are to serve one another.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:14 (ESV)