

# The Traditional Trap

Mark 7:1 – 13

## I. Intro

- A. Satan's tactic in spiritual battle – trap us by making us comfortable in our faith; trap us into believing we **MUST** do certain things/works in order for our salvation to be true; trap us into beliefs that certain acts/rituals/traditions must be done in order for worship of God to be right
- B. Satan, as the Bible calls him, is the great deceiver, the father of lies
  - i. **Jesus own words about Satan (Jesus had personal encounters with Satan, temptation in wilderness): John 8:44 (ESV)**  
44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
  - ii. **Paul wrote words in 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to believers in Corinth: 2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)**  
3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- C. **Same trap that the Pharisees of Jesus' day had become ensnared; READ Mark 7:1 – 13**
- D. **Not all traditions are bad; but any tradition/ritual/program/ministry/worship act practiced by a believer in Christ or in any church that is not supported and backed up by scripture is wrong – very possibly is a trap of Satan that people have allowed themselves to be caught in**
- E. **Important point:** Neither man nor religion can survive being institutionalized, being focused upon tradition, ritual, ceremony, or works
- F. **True/genuine faith/belief is from the heart; hearts of God's people must be focused on God and each other – acceptance and reconciliation, approval and redemption, peace and love, humility and serving, joy and hope**
- G. **5 dangers of Satan's trap of deceiving people into doing something just because that's always the way it's been done, or any kind of "man-established" ritual/ceremony, or giving greater credence to faith-based works performance**

## II. **1 – Man-established Tradition Leads to Hypocrisy**

- A. **REFER v. 6**

- B. A hypocrite gives lip service while his heart is set on something else completely different; Jesus backing up his claim with scripture quoting from Isaiah
- C. Person may read the Bible, attend church or even serve in some capacity in the church, help the needy but their heart is not truly/wholly surrendered to Christ as Lord
- D. They may know about God and His Son in their heads, but don't know Him personally in their hearts
- E. Their real lifestyle doesn't match their lip-service confession

### III. **2 – Man-established Tradition Leads to Empty/Worthless Worship**

- A. **REFER v. 7**
- B. vain (Gr.) - *maten*; folly, serving no purpose; associated with idea of being manipulated; unsuccessful search
- C. Worship/Faith “in vain” is totally, completely useless/worthless, of no benefit to anyone, except possibly causing a person to feel good about themselves
- D. **Question:** Anyone can worship, anyone can have faith, but question is – what's the condition of their heart?
- E. Anyone who's heart is not right with God is just worshipping “in vain”, their faith is worthless
- F. Jesus meant in words to Samaritan woman at the well when she posed to Him a question about worship: **John 4:22 (ESV)**  
22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

### IV. **3 – Man-established Tradition Leads to False Commandments**

- A. **REFER v. 8**
- B. Tradition is man's idea of what should be or what should not be done; often these ideas end up being passed along as commandments of God
- C. Even though some man-established traditions might be good, they should never be taught as though they were ordained by God
- D. As important as some traditions might be, even though they might be beneficial for people or for the church, they're are never as important than the Word of God

### V. **4 – Man-established Tradition Leads to Suppression/Rejection of God's Commandments**

- A. **REFER v. 9**

- B. **Jesus actually accusing Pharisees of breaking God’s law in order to keep their own self-made traditions of religion**
- C. **Example of teaching of Pharisees (v. 10 -13)**
  - i. **First, teaching God’s commandment – *honor father and mother* and *whoever reviles (abuse verbally) father and mother must surely die***
  - ii. **Then teach that if a person has any possession/gift that would normally be given to help/benefit their parent(s) in anyway, if they gave that gift to the temple then they were no longer obligated to their parents**
  - iii. **Jesus said this second teaching voided, led to suppressing and actual rejecting the first teaching – God’s commandment; tells Pharisees this is only one example, they do the same thing in many other ways**
- D. **One simple/basic commandment Jesus gives us as most important – also given in the Gospels and numerous other passages in scripture : 1 John 3:23 (ESV)**  
 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- E. **Leads to last danger ...**

## VI. **5 – Man-established Tradition Enslaves and Burdens**

- A. **Examples of institutional traditions: rituals, ceremonies, regulations, schedules, meeting agendas or formats, procedures – anything that gives order and security to the people involved**
- B. **Examples of personal/faith-based traditions: church attendance, praying, other religious habit, ceremony – whatever a person uses (out of sheer superstition) to make them feel religiously secure and good about themselves**
- C. **Galatians 5:1 (ESV)**  
 1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. - **slavery of being bound by traditions, rituals, works**
- D. **Satan doesn’t want us to be “free” in Christ, he wants us to be enslaved and burdened so we become discouraged, burned out, trapped by rules/rituals falling for his lies/deceptions**

## VII. **Close**

- A. **With all that said, begin a Biblical-based tradition (more discipline) for us as church**
- B. **1 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)**

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **(We should ALL be praying for one another)**

**C. Colossians 3:12 (ESV)**

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **(no better way to show compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and gain patience than praying for each other)**

**D. Church needing refreshing/prayer slips and committing to pray for specific church person/family for December - contact; each month drawing new names**

**E. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)**

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for *[us]*.