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2-14-2022
TRADITIONS OF MEN

So often we become engrained with what we were taught, right or wrong, as children that we find it difficult to change when what we have been taught may not be right.

I remember my mother telling me about cooking roast beef. She always cut it in half and roasted it in two pans. One day her mother visited and asked her why she put it into two pans. My mother explained to her that she had watched her do it this way and thought that was the correct way to do it. My grandmother (my mother's mother) explained to my mother that she did that because the roast was too big to fit into one pan. All that time my mother did it her "mother's way" because she thought it was the "right way."

In Mark chapter 7 the scribes and Pharisees confronted Jesus about not washing his hands before eating bread because they saw it as sin. Jesus responds in verses 6-9 with, ***"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men'. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.'"***

Often church leaders have religious traditions that they will never give up. They come together, sing three songs, preach a sermonette that makes people feel good, they take up the offering, say a closing prayer and church is over. If it is done differently people get all upset. They want their hymnbooks, but don't serve the God that is in the songs. They give an offering out of duty, but not from a joyful heart.

When traditions become more important in the "church" than doing the will of God, then it becomes religion instead of relationship. It becomes dull and void of any semblance of what God would want in worship.

Whether it be family traditions or church traditions, we should examine ourselves to see if we are truly "in the faith" and not doing what we do out of tradition or habit. Can you imagine what would happen if people broke free from traditions of man and just let God move in their lives? What if the church allowed the Holy Spirit to move through the gifts of the Spirit? What if a sermon was stopped because God said pray for someone? Then there might be a true move of God!