

# SCRIPTURE & TRADITION

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WHERE DO WE STAND  
AND WHY DOES IT  
MATTER?



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As the Church, we are expected to toe the line of scripture and tradition in order to navigate our spiritual lifestyle. So what is the difference here?

- Scripture is representative of the Bible as a whole, but more specifically, when we talk about the differences in the two definitions, here we are specifically referencing the commands of God/Jesus and the rules by which the Church was instructed.
- Tradition can be seen throughout the Bible and often stems from the commands of God. Traditions are a method by which we live according to the Bible. All good traditions have a foundation of scripture such as the manner in which we take communion or the method by which we baptize someone.

So why does it matter? To start, since the beginning of the nation of Israel, traditions have been building on each other, both good and bad, to the point that there was often of lot more precautions taken to ensure people did not sin.

### The perfect example of this is the Sabbath:

- What is our commandment for the Sabbath?

*8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

**Exodus 20:8-11**

- How did the Israelites keep the Sabbath during the time of Jesus and even in the current day?

*23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" 25 He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." 27 Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

**Mark 2:23-28**



Jesus is clearly unhappy with the traditions that have grown around the Sabbath. The intention was lost somewhere along the way, and thankfully, Jesus gives us clear direction in His Word on how to rectify the mistakes that traditions have caused around the idea of the Sabbath Day. What began as a marker or prevent the people from sinning eventually became a wall that inhibited the people of God from doing the Will of God as was intended.

God's Laws will never prevent us from sharing the gospel with others. Only traditions are capable of doing that.

## What are some other traditions that we keep?

- Television/Media Consumption
- Gender distinction/Modesty in Clothing
- Grape Juice in Communion
- Resistance to Facial Hair
- Long Hair on Women/Short Hair on Men

It is important to understand the context of these traditions as well as the foundational scripture that flows through them that reinforces them.

*Now these Jews (of Berea) were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

*Acts 17:11*

## What is most important here regarding scripture and traditions is multi-faceted:

- Scripture is unmoving, unnegotiable, and absolute. We do not get to play fast and loose when it comes to the things that God commands.
- In the Body of Christ, there is a spectrum of tradition and beliefs that go along with those traditions but just because you may not agree, it does not mean that others are wrong.
- Tradition can be valuable, but it has the potential to be detrimental.

It should be our intention to use the Word of God as a tool for the Gospel. When we grasp it more completely, we will have the knowledge to use it to its full potential.

