



Thinking About Tradition

WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?

Tradition

- ▶ **Neutral** – “an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior” (Webster)
- ▶ **Common Usage** – “a doctrine believed to have divine authority, though not in the scriptures” (Oxford – def. 2)
- ▶ **Two Questions** –
 - ▶ *On whose authority is it based?*
 - ▶ *Is it exercised within or outside God’s authority?*

Three Kinds of Tradition

- ▶ **Human – Supplanting God's Word**

- ▶ *Mark 7:1-8*

- ▶ *Colossians 2:8-10*

Three Kinds of Tradition

- ▶ **Human – Supplanting God's Word**

- ▶ **Apostolic – Revealing God's Will**

 - ▶ *1 Corinthians 11:2*

 - ▶ *2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:6*

 - ▶ *Apostles' patterns communicate what pleases God*

Three Kinds of Tradition

- ▶ **Human – Supplanting God's Word**
- ▶ **Apostolic – Revealing God's Will**
- ▶ **Expedient – Applying God's Authority**
 - ▶ *Implementing what God has already authorized*
 - ▶ *1 Corinthians 16:1-2*

WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?

Examples

- ▶ **Marriage**

- ▶ *Matthew 19:3-6*

- ▶ *What does “traditional marriage” imply?*

Examples

- ▶ **Marriage**

- ▶ **Lord's Supper**

- ▶ *Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

- ▶ *A pattern passed down: Jesus → Apostles → Saints*

Examples

- ▶ **Marriage**

- ▶ **Lord's Supper**

- ▶ **Baptism as Immersion**

- ▶ *“Church of Christ” tradition? Just one interpretation?*

- ▶ *Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12*

Examples

- ▶ **Marriage**

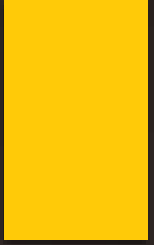
- ▶ **Lord's Supper**

- ▶ **Baptism as Immersion**

- ▶ **Acapella Worship**

- ▶ *Historical tradition? Restoration movement heritage?*

- ▶ *2 Chronicles 29:25, Ephesians 5:18-21*



For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.

COLOSSIANS 2:9-10