**Commands and Traditions**

**Mark 7:5-9**

Dr. Rick Durst, Interim Pastor

Petaluma Valley Baptist Church

From two weeks ago:

* God’s Work and Church Chores
* 1000 Gospel Conversations
* Receiving the Harvest

**Mark 7:5-9 NIV**

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

‘These people honor me with their lips,
    but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain;
    their teachings are merely human rules.’

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observeyour own traditions!”

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The value of traditions: make life comfortable, define expectations and enhance anticipation.

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The value of traditions: make life comfortable, define expectations and enhance anticipation.

When do traditions become self-defeating “fiddling on the roof?”

Practice doesn’t just make perfect, it makes permanent. When traditions replace commands, our hearts get unplugged from our lives and lips. The command of Scripture alone protects our heart lives with God.

Church and Christian conflicts happen because of competing accrediting bodies: commands and traditions.

The seven last words of the church: “We never did it that way before.”

Worship is passionate and transforming when it is directly connected to the God as the heart of worship.

What are you holding on to with all your strength? A clear word from God or a comfortable tradition?

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There is no magic in methods, not even in theologically impeccable methods. When we evangelize, our trust must be in the God who raises the dead. (JI Packer)

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