



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: The Biblical Pattern: Church History – Tradition vs. Traditionalism (June 18, 2023)

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: **GATHER** with your family or group. Step 2: **REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: **PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

When you think of "tradition," what comes to mind? Do you have any traditions from the past that you still practice or hold to today? What are they? When you think of "traditionalism," what comes to mind?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Joshua 4:19-24. Discuss Pastor Sam's statement, "Traditions are meant to honor God for what **GOD** has done in church, and what God has done through people in the church. There is nothing wrong with celebrating tradition as long as it propels you into the future and doesn't chain you to the past. When you celebrate what God did in the past and the method that God used then, it should inspire the vision of the next Generation's to dream of new ways to move the Gospel forward." How does Joshua 4 support and align to the above statement by Pastor Sam?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Tradition vs. Traditionalism. What does traditionalism focus on? How does traditionalism cause fights within the church and between churches? If your past isn't influencing your future, you will fail to reach a new generation. Traditionalism says, "We want young people, but we want them to change to be us." Change is always seen as negative and disrespectful to the past. How does this impact God's vision and purpose of His church? Pastor Sam said, "**The purpose of some, many churches are protecting the traditions of the past rather than leading life change in the future.**" Discuss the impact of this in the church. Many churches are willing to sacrifice potential to protect tradition. When we do that tradition begins to control vision rather than our vision changing tradition.

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15; Matthew 15:2-3, 7-14; Colossians 2:8; Galatians 1:14. Using a Bible App like Bible Hub (biblehub.com) or Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org) or even a good study Bible break these verses down. In 2 Thes. 2:17 who and what is Paul addressing? What is he warning against? Paul reminds them there is only one tradition, what is it? What is Jesus teaching in Matthew 15? How did man's tradition (oral law) trump God's Word? What should all teaching, and traditions be measured against? In Col. 2 what truth is Paul telling the Colossians? All teaching and traditions are to be measured by whether it aligns to Christ's life and teaching. In Gal. 1:14 what is Paul reminding the Galatians? What was Paul's focus before Jesus changed his life? In everyday language how would you communicate what Paul is saying?

DOING THE WORD

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-3. According to the scripture you just read, what tradition is Paul hanging onto? Is this the tradition that we should hang onto also? Discuss. Our preference is not God's permission to declare what is Godly and ungodly. Take time to pray and ask God to reveal if there is any traditionalism that has choked out your purpose to lead others to Christ in your life or in the church. Ask God to break your focus on traditionalism. When we won't break traditionalism to lead breakthroughs in lives, we lose our purpose. It's time we clear a new path and move the Gospel forward!