

# OVERCOMING THE TRAPS OF TRADITION



## *Anatomy of a Revived Church*

*Part 2*



# THEME:

- Healthy churches honor tradition but don't idolize it.
- They refuse to let 'the way we've always done it' dictate the future.

# ***Scripture Text***

## **Mark 7 NKJV**

- 6.** He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.
- 7.** And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

*Tradition in Healthy  
churches...*

## *Tradition in Healthy churches*

### **1. Honors God from the heart.**

#### Mark 7

5. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"
6. He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

## *Tradition in Healthy churches*

### **2. *Is not idolized or esteemed equal to God's Word***

#### **Mark 7**

7. And in vain they worship Me, *teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*
10. For Moses said, "Honor your father and mother"; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'
11. But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God),
12. then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother,
13. *making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."*

## *Tradition in Healthy churches*

### **3. Holds unwaveringly to ‘tradition’ given in God’s Word.**

#### **1 Timothy 3**

14. These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;
15. but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

## *Tradition in Healthy churches*

### **4. Does stand in the way of proclaiming the Gospel in new ways.**

#### **Luke 5:37-38**

**37.** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined.

**38.** But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.

## *Tradition in Healthy churches*

1. Honors God from the heart.
2. Is not idolized or esteemed equal to God's Word.
3. Holds unwaveringly to 'tradition' given in God's Word.
4. Does stand in the way of proclaiming the Gospel in new ways.



# OVERCOMING THE TRAPS OF TRADITION

1. *Let's test all practices/traditions against the Word of God*
2. *Traditions should empower, not hinder CTOF's outreach to connect others to God's Amazing Grace.*

