

## **Pastor Paul's Newsletter 10-14-23**

### **Living From God's Kingdom Culture**

The devil, many times, controls Christians through their culture. They have been born again, and they will never go to hell; but they still live under the devil's control through the culture in which they have been brought up. We must study the Bible to find out if anything in our culture is allowing him access to our lives.

Let's read some Scriptures from different translations that bear this out.

Matthew 15:6 AMPC So for the sake of your tradition (the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect].

TPT This doesn't honor your father or mother. And you have elevated your tradition above the words of God.

NCV You teach that person not to honor his father or his mother. You rejected what God said for the sake of your own rules.

ERV You are teaching them not to respect their father. So you are teaching that it is not important to do what God said. You think it is more important to follow those traditions you have.

In these translations of Matthew 15:6, we see that Jesus was trying to get people to live out God's words instead of their own traditions. Many times we have been raised and taught things that differ from the way God has said in the Bible. The word tradition is interchangeable with culture.

This is the definition of culture from Webster's dictionary.

1. the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice:
2. a story that has come down to us by popular tradition. Something that is handed down:[the traditions of the American South.]
3. a long-established or inherited way of thinking or acting:[The rebellious students wanted to break with tradition]
4. a continuing pattern of culture beliefs or practices.

When Jesus came to this earth, He was the only person that was not controlled by the traditions of men. Now don't get me wrong, a lot of the traditions and cultures of man were started by God's influence; but on the other hand, many have been started by God's adversary, the devil. The only way that we will know the difference is by being taught the Bible, which is the Book that God inspired men to write so we could see the standards and customs of Heaven. Nothing in Heaven is inspired or influenced by the devil.

When Christians die physically, they go to Heaven; they leave their bodies and their un-renewed minds. Everyone in Heaven thinks like God, and His Word can bring Heaven's thinking to us now. When we build the Word of God into our hearts, we will start living the customs of Heaven while we are here on the earth. Here are some Scriptures that bear this out, while I end this Newsletter.

John 3:31 KJV He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: He that cometh from Heaven is above all.

John 8:23,31-32 KJV And He said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. [31] Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; [32] And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:31-32 MSG Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in Him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are My disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."

1 Peter 1:22-25 MSG Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it. Your new life is not like your old life. Your old birth came from mortal sperm; your new birth comes from God's living Word. Just think: a life conceived by God Himself! That's why the prophet said, The old life is a grass life, its beauty as short-lived as wildflowers; Grass dries up, flowers droop, God's Word goes on and on forever. This is the Word that conceived the new life in you.

Love you  
Pastor Paul

This Week's Daily Bible Readings  
Monday Haggai 2

Tuesday Zechariah 1

Wednesday Zechariah 2

Thursday Zechariah 3

Friday Zechariah 4

Saturday Zechariah 5

Sunday Zechariah 6