

Which Side Are You On?

(Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23)

“Tradition or Truth”

Introduction: Mark 7:1-9

<p>1. The Side of Tradition: Must have five songs with two prayers.</p>	<p>1. The Side of Truth: Things must be decent and orderly (I Corinthians 14:40), but singing and praying doesn't need limited (Psalms 135:3, James 5:13, and Ephesians 5:19-20).</p>
<p>2. The Side of Tradition: The invitation must always be – “hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized”.</p>	<p>2. The Side of Truth: Acts 26:20; 26-27. Besides, there are more than 5 steps if you really think about it (John 8:31, Acts 2:42; 47; 14:22, Romans 8:24, etc.).</p>
<p>3. The Side of Tradition: Must have a staffed nursery in case someone needs to drop off a child so they can worship.</p>	<p>3. The Side of Truth: Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 31:19, Matthew 15:32-38, Matthew 18:1-4, and Ephesians 6:4.</p>
<p>4. The Side of Tradition: The need for an annual Vacation Bible School to attract the neighborhood children.</p>	<p>4. The Side of Truth: Are schemes & entertainment really evangelism (Acts 5:42, II Timothy 4:2, etc.)? Get to the parent through the child is honest (II Corinthians 11:3)? If it is good, why only annual? Where did the terms “VBS” come from (I Peter 4:11)?</p>
<p>5. The Side of Tradition: To get brethren involved we have to divide up into groups and teams for visitation, hospitality, etc.</p>	<p>5. The Side of Truth: I Corinthians 12:20-27 and Ephesians 4:16.</p>
<p>6. The Side of Tradition: We must have a well-known preacher for our spring and fall Gospel Meetings.</p>	<p>6. The Side of Truth: I Corinthians 1:10-18, Luke 6:26, and II Corinthians 10:12; 18. Shouldn't the focus be on the Gospel (Luke 10:38-42 and I Peter 2:1-2)? Are Gospel Meeting scheduled because of need or just to hear the typical first principles at the “normal Gospel Meeting time” (Jude 3)?</p>

<p>7. The Side of Tradition: We will sing the songs that sound good, we like, etc.</p> <p>8. The Side of Tradition: Let's pray for God to work aside from His word while we teach the exact opposite.</p> <p>9. The Side of Tradition: When there is a doctrinal disagreement among the saints, the men should come together to vote on it.</p> <p>10. The Side of Tradition: Hiring and firing preachers because they are employees of the church.</p> <p>11. The Side of Tradition: The church has to have a special account for a building fund, a savings, CD's, etc.</p> <p>12. The Side of Tradition: (For some congregations) – the need to own a “church building” as though they are not the church of Christ until they have one.</p>	<p>7. The Side of Truth: Are they Scriptural songs (Colossians 3:16; cf. Titus 2:1)? Do we understand them (I Corinthians 14:15)?</p> <p>8. The Side of Truth: Teaching miracles ceased (I Corinthians 13:8-10), pray for healing, be with doctors guiding their knives, land the plane safely, etc. Teach the word of God converts (Romans 1:16), but pray for God to open ears and hearts (Matthew 13:13-15).</p> <p>9. The Side of Truth: Acts 3:22-26, I Corinthians 4:6, Colossians 3:17, Philippians 3:16, Psalms 37:23, Proverbs 19:3, Proverbs 20:24, and Proverbs 21:2.</p> <p>10. The Side of Truth: Preachers are supported, not paid employees (I Corinthians 9:14 and Philippians 4:11-16). Preachers are Christ pleasers, not men pleasers (Galatians 1:10-11 and II Timothy 4:1-5). Real preachers won't act like employees (Titus 2:15).</p> <p>11. The Side of Truth: Doesn't the parable of the talents teach us to put what is the Lord's to work, instead of in the ground (Matthew 25:14-30)? What will Jesus do with 10K, 20k, 500K, etc. when He returns? What are rainy day funds (Matthew 6:34)? Whose money are you managing (Acts 5:3-4)?</p> <p>12. The Side of Truth: Buildings are authorized (cf. I Corinthians 11:18ff.). Yet, a building does not make a congregation (Acts 2:46, Romans 16:5, I Corinthians 16:9, Colossians 4:15, and Philemon 2; cf. I Corinthians 12:27).</p>
---	--

<p>13. The Side of Tradition: Church secretaries, trustees, staffed church office, employees, etc.</p>	<p>13. The Side of Truth: Can't find any of these in the Scriptures (Ephesians 4:11-12). Don't we need Scriptures for these things (Matthew 17:5; 28:18)?</p>
<p>14. The Side of Tradition: Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night services.</p>	<p>14. The Side of Truth: Are churches meeting when it is expedient for the members (Acts 20:7 and Romans 12:5), or when the sign says so? Does the church assemble when causing brethren to err (Hebrews 10:25)? Note* This is not excusing those who love to forsake the assembling of saints.</p>
<p>15. The Side of Tradition: Make up service for the Lord's Supper.</p>	<p>15. The Side of Truth: Why is I Corinthians 11:33 not followed? How can you partake outside of the pattern of "together" (cf. Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:18; 20; 34). Doing something individually inside the assembly is not according to the will of the Lord (cf. I Corinthians 14:26). No "solos"!</p>
<p>16. The Side of Tradition: Congregational discipline based on a vote to "withdraw fellowship".</p>	<p>16. The Side of Truth: It's not out choice (Matthew 18:15-17 and II Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15; cf. I Corinthians 5). Fellowship is determined by God, not us (I John 1:3-7). If they do not have God and we have fellowship, we join them (II John 9-11).</p>
<p>17. The Side of Tradition: Teachers of classes who need printed class books, crafts, arts, etc.</p>	<p>17. The Side of Truth: If you can't teach, you can't teach (Hebrews 5:12-14 and James 3:1). At last check, crafts do not teach (I Corinthians 1:21; 2:1-5).</p>
<p>18. The Side of Tradition: Using those individual men to lead in services whom are failing in their responsibilities to God and the brethren.</p>	<p>18. The Side of Truth: God's not hearing this person (Proverbs 15:8, Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 28:9, Proverbs 28:9, and John 9:31) but their leading us?? What example are they setting (I Timothy 4:12)? Why test preachers, but not song leaders?</p>

<p>19. The Side of Tradition: Open arms policy for those seeking to “place membership” with the local church.</p>	<p>19. The Side of Truth: Will anyone recommend this person (Romans 16:1-4 and I Corinthians 16:10-11)? Will this person answer questions (I John 4:1)? Are they wolves (Matthew 7:15 and Acts 20:28-31)? As discussed earlier, are they in fellowship with God (cf. Ephesians 5:11)?</p>
<p>20. The Side of Tradition: The church sponsoring, funding, and / or overseeing social activities.</p>	<p>20. The Side of Truth: John 6:26-27 and Romans 14:17; cf. I Corinthians 11:22; 34.</p>
<p>21. The Side of Tradition: We say our hearts are the only instruments to be used in our musical worship, while the song leader uses a pitch pipe.</p>	<p>21. The Side of Truth: Is this consistent? No, (Ephesians 5:19)! Where does the Lord command setting a perfect pitch? Where pipes, tuning forks, etc. used in the N.T. (I Thessalonians 5:21)? Is it the same as a songbook? Can we all sing together without a songbook? How about a pitch pipe? What is the book of Psalms?</p>
<p>22. The Side of Tradition: Brethren claim to worship in spirit and truth as long as it happens within the “worship hour”.</p>	<p>22. The Side of Truth: Can we sing, pray, preach, remember, and give according the clock and claim it is spiritual worship (Nehemiah 9:1-3 and Acts 20:8-12)?</p>
<p>23. The Side of Tradition: Preaching against traditions of men, while practicing many of our own!</p>	<p>23. The Side of Truth: Job 15:34, Job 27:8, Luke 12:1, Matthew 7:1-5, and Romans 2:1-3.</p>

Conclusion: After these three lessons, whose side are you on (**I John 3:8-10**)?