

The Traditions of Men Part 1

KJV Matthew 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Verse 6... *Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect (rob of its authority) by your tradition.*

Tradition *paradosis* is the act of giving up something or exchanging something for word of mouth!

Jesus is talking to the **scribes and Pharisees** who allowed a person to dedicate money or property to God by a rule called “corban.”

The Pharisees allowed people to give money to The Temple that should have gone to support their parents.

A man could take a vow of Corban and act like he was honoring his parents when he really was using the money for something else.

Traditions are beliefs and practices handed down by word of mouth!

Interestingly enough the words **tradition** and **treason** are brothers!

Treason is the act of surrendering and giving up!

But let me stop here and say not all traditions are evil or bad—Traditions are wrong when they contradict God’s Word and His plan!

There are stories that have been handed down for generations in text books, through stage, film and television that have become a way of life that has robbed us of the truth of God’s Word!

NIV Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

The KJ uses the word “**rob**” to illustrate just how violent, painful and forceful human tradition can be!

Man’s Traditions **rob** us of what is good and true and replaces it with (philosophy) human knowledge and tradition!

Over the centuries Christianity has been characterized as white and Eurocentric!

Meaning most of the early church fathers that were responsible for maintaining the doctrine of the original apostles and establishing Christ centered churches have been either white or considered white Europeans.

Origen, Clement, Tertullian and Augustine the early church fathers held in high regard are usually depicted as white Europeans—they were not!

They were men of color of African, Mediterranean and Asiatic lineage!

If you were to Google them 95% of their pictures would be of Eurocentric men with white or pale skin—this is the tradition of men.

A big reason for this goes back to the so called **curse of Ham** theology.

I say theology because it has been held as a “**God idea**” and believed for centuries even millennia!

Dark skinned people and mainly black people were **falsely** believed to be cursed by Noah (Gen 9:18-27).

After the flood when Noah got drunk Ham came in a saw his father drunk, naked and unconscious and did not honor his father by covering his nakedness.

The other two brothers Shem and Japheth came and honored their father by covering him.

Noah places a curse **not** on Ham but on his son Canaan.

NIV Genesis 9:25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."

Ham had four sons **Cush** (Ethiopia), **Mizraim** (Egypt), **Put**, (Mediterranean Africa) and **Canaan** (Palestine and parts of Asia Minor).

Ham is considered the father of the dark skinned races; Egyptians as well as of peoples in Africa, Arabia, and Canaan or Palestine.

“He who controls the past controls the present; he who controls the present controls the future.” George Orwell!

Job 13:1 "My eyes have seen all this, my ears have heard and understood it.

2 What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you.

So tradition has it people of color and especially black people are cursed and the lowest on the scale when it comes to God’s favor.

At the 2017 Southern Baptist convention just voted to remove the curse of Ham teaching they promoted for centuries as a doctrine.

Southern Baptist is considered the largest Protestant body in the US. With some 15 million members they are the second largest Christian body after the Catholic Church.

Most of the literature, paintings and scholars have been depicted as white Europeans. This not accurate!

Jesus Christ has been depicted as a white skinned European man along with His 12 disciples—this is false human tradition.

Geographically speaking it would be impossible for Jesus or any other man born in that region of the world to have white skin.

Before we go any further and create anger, frustration and more distrust in your hearts let look these scriptures:

ESV 2 Corinthians 5:14-16 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

The love of Christ has no skin color, race or denominational affiliation!

Christ is Jesus title and spiritual position in the universe as Messiah—He is the Savior of all people regardless of race, color and creed.

If we allow the love of Christ to control us skin color is not a factor!

If tradition controls us the color of a person's skin influences, controls and dictates how we live!

Paul says people who live for themselves create doctrines, organizations and institutions for themselves that oppress and exclude others.

The very reason there are denominations, black churches, white churches, Asian churches and even gay churches is because people are living according to the flesh!

The church or The Body of Christ belongs to **no man, no nation or group of people**, it belongs to God!

ESV 1 Corinthians 3:21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours,

22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future- all are yours,

23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.