

## IS GOD PLEASED WITH OUR TRADITIONS

The tradition of Christmas, or observing birthdays, was not kept among the Jewish people during or after the time of Jesus. First we will determine what God considers "tradition". Any Bible scholar knows the word "Christ-mas" is not even mentioned in the Bible, nor as a tradition in either old Testament or new Test. Celebrating anything that has not been sanctioned by God makes it a tradition of man. The scriptures listed below show some problems Jesus, and believers, had with man made traditions.

Mt 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. Mt 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? Mt 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Mr 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. Mr 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? Mr 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. Mr 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. Mr 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. Ga 1:14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Paul also had to deal with the Gentile church's traditions encouraging them to keep only those traditions found in 2Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

In my understanding, any tradition that has anything to do with worship of pagan gods, images, spirits, persons, imaginations originated by man etc, is always forbidden, condemned by God. He says having any kind of affection for anyone, or anything, that infringes on our love for Him is Idolatry and spiritual adultery. Where can we prove that by scripture? Can we set up traditions as images in our hearts?

This is what God said to men of Israel. Notice the where (and why) of the stumbling block, and how God identifies it. What is the root of their sins, and the results?

Eze 14:3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

7 For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: 28 Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the

LORD thy God.

God says He does not change, what he hated then He still hates:

Deu 12:29 When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

31 Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

If God wants us to worship Him or His son a certain way, and it is important that we do it his way. Don't you think He would have told us how He wants us to do it?

So many of our traditions have been man made and copied from ancient times and we have adopted them into our religious thoughts and observances without knowing what God has to say about them. There is a wealth of information about how/where so many of our traditions originated from paganism, in history books and on the internet, as well as in the Bible itself.

Listen to what Jesus says, not only to the religious leaders of his day but, to us as in our well:

Mr 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. Mr 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.