

Tradition or Truth? (Part 2) (Matthew 5:21ff; Luke 6:40; Mark 7:13)

For Truth (what God says) to win out over tradition (what others say) in our lives we must first get over the offensiveness of Truth - "Blessed are you when you do not take offense AT ME." (Matt 11:6) To begin with, we may get offended at the eternal, absolute, unchanging nature of Truth. (Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8; Ja 1:17) It is non-cultural, non-generational—it doesn't change with the times, with majority opinion, and most importantly, it does not change to suit my own personal preferences! The absolute and unbending nature of Uncreated Truth can scare us spitless! (There is so much we don't believe... because it might be true!) In other words, we must come to terms with the Truth - it (He) will not come to terms to you. It would not be in your best interest for Him to do so.

Secondly, we must get over being offended at the "mystery" of Truth. Truth from above cannot be figured out by brains from below. (I Cor 2:14) That humbles us always. It humiliates us sometimes! God's truth is simply not reducible to definitions - and that can be frustrating. God's truth is non-reproducible - you can't "program" it and use it in man-made methodologies. Eternal Truth is non-controllable - we cannot systematize it for our personal success goals. We must learn to be at home in "mystery", else God and His truth become a royal pain in the... neck! Each of us will be brought to a place where we will be required to lay down our demands for understanding before we will believe. If there is "understanding", it will usually follow, not (often) precede faith (Heb 11:3).

Finally (for this space at least), we must get over the offense of having our rationalizations exposed. Rationalizations are basically excuses for sameness. Truth comes to us as both a light and a sword. All our excuses for unChristlikeness become visible (Eph 5:13) in the light of who He is and where He is - in us. We may never use Christ and His truth as an excuse for anything. His truth is the reason for everything about us to be different. His truth comes with a "sword" (Matt 10:34) and we intuitively know it. A radically liberating sword that severs us from the errors of self-determination, the lies that didn't come from Him in the first place. Severed from our "illusions" (true discipleship can be very dis-illusioning!) we become free (Jo 8:31-36). To be free is to be responsible. We get offended when there is no one else to "blame". (Blame is an excuse for sameness.)

There are, for all of us, times when we prefer tradition and its deceptions over The Truth - particularly when the Truth is inconvenient, uncomfortable, offensive. Blessedness (Matt 11:6) lies on the right side of Truth. We've had time enough to walk in the futility of what others say. It is time to lay down our preferences, our demands for understanding, our rationalizations and excuses. It is time to get over our easily offended false selves and abide in Truth - in what God says - and walk in what it means to be sons and daughters of The Most High God.

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 **GREETINGS** 

April showers may bring a spring flower (depending on weather or where you are on this globe), but, a loving confession will bring a great expression (no matter the circumstances and where we are on the globe)!





What loving confession? "I'll be for others!" (And not the "others" we select, but the ones God chooses) Our theology may not be entirely accurate, our behavior altogether perfect, however, when we are willing to be for others the very power of Christ's life has a way of finding His expression through us.

Jesus came and demonstrated the only way to overcome Satan, sin, death, the world... is through submissive and sacrificial love. Not found naturally on this planet (it is an "alien" love—I Jo 3:1), such love can only be freely received from God. We can't work it up or call it down but we can receive it in all its fullness in Christ (Jo 1:16), God's love in person.

All authority is tied to this love. We have authority to "lay down our lives" anytime we choose (Jo 10:18). You thought authority was about "position"? In a way it is... how low will we go? Be for others this month. Go as low as you can. See if God's authority does not reign through us, indeed!

April	
2,9,16,23,30	CCF
3-6	Asheville, NC (828-230-9344)
11	Alachua Study
25	Ocala Study
May	
5-7	Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)
19-20	Orlando, FL (863-414-0466)
June	
2-4	Louisville, KY (502-245-4581)
July	
28-30	Waldorf, MD (301-751-4408)

 **PRAISE and PRAYER** 

-  Thanks for God's perfect love
-  Thanks for truth-tellers
-  Wisdom for future retreat plans
-  For truth to get the final word, not tradition