

The End of Religion
Part #3 – “Tearing Away EMPTY Traditions”
Sunday May 3, 2009
Audio Available at www.kingstreet.org/audio

“See that you do all I command you; do not **add** to it or **take** away from it.”
(Deuteronomy 12:32)

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone **adds** anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words **away** from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”
(Revelation 22:18-19)

Legalism ... “to add to the commands of God”

License ... “to take away from the commands of God”

→ The difference between **rules** and **commands**

Text – Mark 7:1-8

“The great freedom and frustration of Christ-following is that the forms of this faith are open to diversity. You have to deal with that if you want to follow the way of Jesus. We can not rely on **inherited** traditions to do the **thinking** for us, or else we may devolve into something quite unlike what Jesus had intended. This is, by the way, why I strongly believe in sticking closely to what the Bible teaches – not to be an oppressive legalist, but to avoid oppressive legalism. Remember that in Christian circles, legalism is usually the result of human tradition being **added** to the Bible and passed off as Scriptural teaching. I find the original teachings of Jesus completely freeing! Why would anyone want to deviate from that?”
(Bruxy Cavey)

Well-meaning traditions can sometimes discourage **thoughtful** faith.

- Red Chairs
- Fences

“Fences are fine for cattle, but sheep need a shepherd.”
(Bruxy Cavey)

2. Well-meaning traditions can sometimes lead to ‘empty habits’ rather than ‘deliberate and **discerned choices’.**

- The power of **selectivity**
- The way of wisdom and the pursuit of the **best**
- The **voice** of the Spirit

3. Well-meaning traditions can sometimes distort the gospel to the ‘not yet convinced’ and can create a ‘breeding pool’ of **disunity.**

Text – Romans 14:1-8; 13-25

Moving from religion and tradition to conscience and conviction ...

- a. We over value tradition when we **judge** others and we move away from religion when we exercise grace and acceptance.
- b. We over value tradition when pile up **our** convictions on another person’s conscience and we move away from religion when we identify ‘disputable matters’ for what they are ... and when we choose to entrust others to the Holy Spirit.
- c. We over value tradition when we esteem rules, rituals and regulations over **relationships**.