



The Scandalous Servant Savior
Tradition vs. Trust

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**Traditions & Commandments
(What Defiles a Person)**

Mark 7:1-23

1. A Faith That Only Looks Good Impresses Men, But Not God

27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Matthew 23:27-28

Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

2. For Faith to Be Good It Requires Spiritual Heart Surgery

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Jeremiah 17:9

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-by grace you have been saved- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-7

3. Religious Practice Can Be Redeemed When It Glorifies Our Heart Surgeon

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him...But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

James 2:14, 18

Bottom Line

Our Faith Can't Just Look Good, It Needs To Be Good

The Scandalous Servant Savior: Tradition vs. Trust

1. What are some family traditions you enjoy celebrating? What is the story behind those traditions?
2. When you think about tradition and Christianity, what do you think of and why?
3. In what ways can tradition be a good thing in the church? How can it be a bad thing?
4. Read Mark 7:1-23, What were the Pharisees doing in this passage, and why did Jesus come at them so directly?
5. When you look at how Jesus describes the heart of a man, how does that impact how you view mankind (and even yourself)?
6. How can the church redeem tradition and still have an impact for God's kingdom?
7. One tradition we will be rejuvenating this year is Ash Wednesday, which includes the practice of fasting from something. What are some things you might be considering fasting from as part of this traditional church practice?
8. Spend some time praying for God to remove things from our lives that are superficial with regards to our faith, and give us a heart to honor God in all that we do internally (transformation) and externally (expression).