

The Traditions Of Men

The traditions of men cause people to turn away from the word of God. There are a number of passages which forbid us from adding to or taking away the Bible (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19). Several other passages tell us to "*turn not from it to the right hand or to the left*" (Deuteronomy 5:32; 17:20; Joshua 1:7; 23:6).

Jesus enumerated three consequences in Mark 7:1-23 which people did to the word of God just to keep their traditions: First, they laid aside the commands of God (vs. 8). Second, they rejected the commands of God (vs. 9). Third, they made void the commands of God (vs. 13). Given the gravity of the situation, would you want to believe in and follow the commandments of men?

Because of the importance of avoiding the traditions of men, you need to know more about them. To that end, the following list is provided; however, it is impossible to give an exact date for the beginning of some new teaching or practice, since many changes came gradually. The parenthesis denotes the fact that the exact date is not known. The list was collated from lists by Boettner's book entitled "Roman Catholicism," Reece's "Chart Of Church History" and a chart on the history of the church released by "The Voice Of Evangelism."

- 135 Modern theory of "Holy Ghost baptism" began.
- 135 Prophets, visions, seasons of ecstasy.
- 135 Doctrine of premillennialism began.
- 150 "Infant baptism" first advocated.
- (225) Elevation of the "clergy" over members.
- 251 Pouring or sprinkling substituted for baptism.
- (300) Prayers for the dead.
- (300) Making the sign of the cross.
- 320 Wax candles
- 325 Nicene Creed established.
- 375 Veneration of angels and dead saints.
- 375 Use of images
- 394 The Mass as a daily celebration
- 400 Total hereditary depravity.
- 400 Salvation by faith alone through grace.
- 400 Once saved, always saved.
- 400 Necessity of "infant baptism."
- 400 Unconditional election and reprobation.
- 431 The term "Mother of God" first applied to Mary.

- 500 Priests began to dress differently from "laymen."
- 528 Extreme unction ("last rites").
- 538 Priests say Mass facing East.
- 552 Apostolic succession in the Eastern Church.
- (552) Apostolic succession in the Western Church.
- 590 The papacy (office of "Pope") begins.
- 593 The doctrine of purgatory established by "Pope" Gregory I.
- 600 Latin language for worship imposed by "Pope" Gregory I.
- 600 Prayers dedicated to Mary, dead saints and angels.
- 600 Instrumental music in worship introduced but opposed.
- 606 Title of "Pope" given to Boniface III by Emperor Phocas.
- 709 Kissing the "Pope's" foot began with "Pope" Constantine.
- 750 Temporal power of "Popes" given by Pepin, King of France.
- 786 Worship of the cross, images and relics authorized.
- 796 Incense ordered into use.
- 850 Holy water, mixed with salt, and blessed by priest.
- (869) Communion in only one kind in the Latin Church.
- 927 College of Cardinals established.
- 933 Invocation of saints.
- 995 Canonization of dead saints by the "Pope."
- 998 Fish eating, Lent and Good Friday.
- 998 Fasting on Fridays and during Lent.
- 1022 Penance instituted.
- 1079 Celibacy of the priesthood decreed by Gregory VI.
- 1079 The Rosary begun by Peter the Hermit.
- 1190 Sale of indulgences.
- 1215 Mass declared a sacrifice of Christ.
- 1215 Transubstantiation proclaimed by Innocent III.
- 1215 Auricular confession of sins to priest began by Lateran Council.
- 1217 Elevation of "Host" (the bread).
- 1220 Adoration of the bread decreed by Honorius III.
- 1229 Bible forbidden to "laymen" and placed on the index of forbidden books by Council of Valencia.
- 1230 Bell ringing at Mass.
- 1268 Priestly power of absolution of sins began.
- 1311 Pouring officially substituted for baptism.
- 1362 Triple-crown tiara first worn by "Pope."
- 1414 The cup forbidden to the people at communion (Constance).
- 1438 Purgatory proclaimed as a dogma (Florence).
- 1439 Doctrine of the Seven Sacraments affirmed.
- 1495 Papal control of marriage rights.
- 1545 Tradition declared of equal authority with the Bible (Trent).
- 1546 Justification by human works of merit.

- 1546 Mass universally said in Latin.
- 1546 Apocryphal books added to the Bible (Trent).
- 1546 Papal interpretation declared authoritative.
- 1547 Confirmation begun.
- 1831 Use of the mourner's bench began.
- 1854 Immaculate Conception of Mary.
- 1870 Infallibility of "Pope" affirmed by Vatican Council.
- 1930 Public schools condemned by "Pope" Pius XI.
- 1950 Bodily Assumption of Mary proclaimed by Pius XII.
- 1973 Infallibility of the "Pope" reaffirmed by Vatican ruling.

Matthew 15:8-9 says, *"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

Men cross a serious bridge when they change the word of God! Let us never do it and encourage others as best we can to turn away from these false additions.

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