

IS IT CONVICTION OR IS IT TRADITION?

A very large portion of those who are members of any of the various denominations, are so because that is the way they were raised. They attended a congregation of that denomination as they grew to adulthood. For them, it was the natural denomination for them to embrace. In fact, multitudes of these have rejected the gospel because of that very reason. Personally, I have heard many times, "well according to you, my mother and father are lost and in hell". There are two things that I would pass on to those with this view. First, if they are indeed lost, they certainly do not want you to follow them. The rich man wanted Abraham to send Lazarus back to warn his brothers that they not end up where he was.

Secondly, acceptance or rejection of the truth by an individual has nothing whatsoever to do with the salvation or damnation of one who has already departed this life. We are not advocating that one change from one man made denomination to another man made denomination. We are talking about leaving error for truth. If the truth is shown to one and he believes and obeys it, he will be saved. It will not have any effect upon the salvation of their dear departed. If that truth is presented and one rejects it, that person will be lost and, still have no bearing on their departed loved ones. We are not in the judging business, but we do point out what the Lord said. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

There is one more point that we wish to make. This tendency to follow the traditional church of our family, without having been convicted of the truth of the gospel is often seen in the Lord's church as in those denominations. Children of members of the Lord's church can name the five steps of salvation, know that we are to sing without the mechanical instrument and other such truths without having ever been convicted of the truth of the Gospel. We often refer to the statement of our Lord, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Just as one can sit on the pew during every Bible study and worship service without ever worshipping in spirit as well as in truth, so a person can be a member of the Lord's church "outwardly" without ever having been convinced, convicted and converted. Think long and hard about your conversion, making sure it was conviction and not just tradition.

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THOU SHALT NOT COMPROMISE GOD'S WORD!

The above words are not specifically found in the Bible. Yet, the meaning of the command is found. Numerous are the times God has commanded that man adhere to His word just as it is given, no changes whatsoever. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you" (Deut. 4:2). "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Prov. 30:6). "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:9).

It is true that in the dealings of man, often we find that someone has to compromise a little if we are to have peace and harmony. However, we may never compromise truth, and God's word is truth (John 17:17).

Often one seems to think that just a little compromise will not make that much difference, a little fib, a little dishonesty, a little greediness, etc. Such is not the case with God's word! Consider the example of Nadab and Abihu. "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not" (Lev. 10:1). That seems like a little thing. Fire is fire, what difference does it make where they get it? They were burned with fire from heaven because they compromised God's word (Lev. 10:2).

Does it seem a "little thing" to you to compromise God's command to assemble upon the first day of the week (Heb. 10:25)? Does it seem a "little thing" to you to compromise God's commands concerning giving (I Cor. 16:1-2)? Does it seem a "little thing" to you to compromise God's command to learn His word (II Tim. 2:15)? Does it seem a "little thing" to you to compromise God's command to take the gospel to those around you (Mark 16:15)? Our list could go on, but certainly we can see that all too often brethren make what they deem to be "little compromises" with God's word.

Question, do you believe God will be any more lenient with your disobedience to His word than He was of Adam and Eve, Nadab and Abihu, Moses, David, Ananias and Sapphira and other examples? It would seem the wise thing to do is, **never, never, never** compromise God's word. His word is truth and by it and it only one can be saved!!!