

Taking the Biblical Tradition Forward

Jeremiah 6:16; 18:15; John 14:6

Are we a traditional church? The answer is Yes and No. Yes in the sense that we follow the right, biblical tradition. No in the sense that we keep ourselves away from the manmade wrong traditions.

The Bible talks about both and warns the Church against the corrupt traditions of man and calls for the true traditions.

- Jeremiah 6:16, “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”
- Jeremiah 18:15-17, “Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up; To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.”
- Matthew 15:2-3, “Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”
- Colossians 2:8, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6, “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.”

We, as a church, are committed to the right tradition or the biblical tradition which our forefathers faithfully practiced and preserved for us.

We want to discern the wrong traditions and keep ourselves away from those.

Proclaim the Pure Gospel—Preach the Truth

The Apostle Paul said in Galatians 1:11-12, “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

- This gospel Paul explains in Romans 1:16-17, It is the power of God unto salvation, “for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
- Accordingly, we preach the doctrines of grace—the total depravity of man, God’s sovereign will in saving man, and accordingly Jesus Christ becoming the righteousness for man.

Promote the Pure Word—Protect the Truth

The Apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

- All our faith and practice are based on the Word of God.
- We believe the Scripture is sufficient for our faith and practice.

Provide the Pure Witness—Practice the Truth

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

- Psalms 119:105, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Preserve the Pure Tradition—Pass on the Truth

The Apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:2, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

- The same truth that has been preserved over the centuries and millenniums needs to be faithfully passed on to the present generation and through them, to the generations to come.

Conclusion

Today is the Reformation Sunday. This year is the 503 year of Reformation.

- It was in October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther, a former Augustinian monk and lecturer in Wittenberg University, Germany, put up the famous 95 theses at the Wittenberg church doors. Luther was responding to the corrupt traditions of the dominant church of those days. This sparked the great Protestant Reformation Movement of the 16th century.
- Reformation was only an effort to bring the church back to its track.

We are a Reformed church, means we want to follow the track established by the Prophets of Old and the Apostles of the New Testament.

- This tradition is Christ centered, Bible based, and the Kingdom oriented.
- The ultimate motto of this tradition is transforming the lives of men in the light of the Truth of God, and giving glory to God.
- May we be ever committed to this glorious tradition of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ!