

# San Juan Church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About...

### Traditions of Men

This week's article will include many scriptures and we encourage the reader to look at the scriptures quoted to see if the statements written are truth (Acts 17:11). Jesus was asked by the Pharisees and scribes, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders?" Jesus responded, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" Jesus called these elders "hypocrites," saying they "worship Me in vain teaching as doctrines the precepts of men." The disciples came to Jesus and said, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?" Jesus answered them saying, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted... they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit" (Matt. 15:1-14).

The Jews called a "doctrine" a seed or plant. Jesus called "the word of God" seed (Luke 8:11). The traditions of the elders were plants [seed] which God had not planted; they were the doctrines of men, and such can never stand before the word of God. When Jesus said "they are blind guides of the blind" He is referring to false teachers and those who are deceived listening to their words. Both the teachers and the students shall perish. It is the duty of teachers to compare their teachings with the word of God and to prepare for opposition from those who will not teach the truth.

This past week the Oscars awarded the movie "Spotlight" as the best picture. The movie exposed Catholic priests who had been child-abusers and were being investigated. Contrary to God's word, the Catholic church teaches that from priests to the Pope, the leaders must be celibate, which causes some to be tempted with sexual immorality (1 Cor.7:1-5).

According to God's word should a leader in the Lord's church be celibate? The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "A bishop then, must be above reproach and the husband of one wife. He must be one who manages his own household well keeping his children under control with all dignity but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God? (1 Tim. 3:2-5). Paul also wrote that the great apostasy [falling away from the truth] would forbid marriage. "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons...men who forbid marriage" (1 Tim. 4:1-3). Paul wrote that the rest of the apostles took with them while they preached, believing wives including Cephas [Peter] (1 Cor. 9:5).

The apostle John wrote "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9).

Send comments, questions, or requests for a DVD study to:

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