

**Truth or Tradition: Living the Christian Life**  
**Mark 7:6-13; I Corinthians 11:1-4**

**“Tradition”:** handed down, handed over by man (Is 29:13, Mk 7:7,8) – “You’ve heard it said...”

**“Truth”:** What God says (Jo 17:17) – “But I say to you...”

**Some Traditional Teachings:** (“You’ve heard it said...”)

- We need the help of the “law” to live Christianly (we focused on the law, not Christ)
- We need to become (more) aware of sin in our lives (we focused on sin, not the Savior)
- We need to be sanctified... by imitation (we focused on ourselves, not Jesus)
- We need to get better at the spiritual disciplines (we focused on Bible, prayer, etc, not Christ)
- We need more faith (we had faith in faith, not in God)

**Truth:** (“But I say to you...”)

- We’ll never live Christianly by the help of the law, only by the indwelling life of Amazing Grace Himself – Col 2:6; Ro 8:4; 10:4; I Tim 1:8-9
- We’ll never live Christianly by looking for sin, only by looking to the Savior – Col 2:13; II Cor 5:21; Ro 6:4-11
- We’ll never live Christianly by imitation, only by association – I Cor 1:30; Heb 10:10,14
- We’ll never live Christianly by centering in the disciplines, only by centering in Christ – Jo 14:1,10-12; Jo 5:39; Lk 24:27,44-45
- We’ll never live Christianly by trusting in faith, only by trusting in Christ’s faithfulness – Matt 17:20; I Thess 5:24

**THE Truth:** “You don’t need the law, sin detectors, will power, the disciplines, more faith...  
**YOU NEED ME!”**

“...Are you ‘trying hard’ to live the Christian life... or trusting Me?” – Col 2:6

...Are you willing to return to the simplicity and purity of “Not I, but Christ?” – II Cor 11:3; Ga 2:20

**The Result:** “Out of you shall ESCAPE everything I’ve given you.” – Jo 7:38

- We live in an “entropic” world (fading, de-volving, perishing) – I Jo 2:17
- We have an “anti-entropic” Life in Christ (unfading, constant, eternal) – I Pet 1:23-25
  - ...a creative, lasting satisfaction in Me – Rev 21:5; Jo 4:14
  - ...an abundance, an infinite supply for others – Jo 10:10; Ga 5:6; I Jo 3:18-19
- Our very lives speak the Truth in Love – Phil 2:5-8; 4:15
  - ...we are living the Christian life when the Love of God demonstrates His character in and through us – Ga 5:22-23