

A lot of things we do as local churches are grounded in tradition:

- style of Church services
- language
- activities
- Bible version
- how we dress

When is tradition unhelpful or ungodly?

- When it becomes the end rather than the means to the end
- When it is used to judge others
- When it is more important than carrying out the essentials and priorities of Jesus and His Kingdom
- Matthew 15:6 - *....you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.*

What are the essentials and priorities of Jesus and His Kingdom?

Give up everything

Luke 14:33

...those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Luke 18:22

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

What are the essentials and priorities of Jesus and His Kingdom?

Follow me

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

1 John 2:6

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

What are the essentials and priorities of Jesus and His Kingdom?

Love others

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

What are the essentials and priorities of Jesus and His Kingdom?

Love others

Galatians 5:14

*The entire law is summed up in a single command:
“Love your neighbour as yourself.”*

What are the essentials and priorities of Jesus and His Kingdom?

Introduce others to me

John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

What are the essentials and priorities of Jesus and His Kingdom?

Introduce others to me

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Engaging Others

How do we *become all things to all people so that by all possible means we might save some?*

- *Traditional approach?*
- *People focused rather than event/activity focused*
- *That everyone in the local church, and in the circle of influence of the local church, has an opportunity to know and follow Jesus*
 - *Outreach oriented activities*
 - *Multi-congregational church*