

Holiday Traditions: Renewing our Minds!



Christmas traditions are dear to many of us and as we grow in the Lord, we want our traditions to more accurately reflect our growing faith and maturity in Christ.

Traditions are set patterns that constitute a way of life, past down from generation to generation. Some traditions are inherently evil, such as getting drunk on New Year's Eve and some traditions are inherently good, such as going to church every Sunday as a family. But many traditions are neutral, such as pecan pie on Thanksgiving Day. The important thing is to not let traditions become bondage; instead using them appropriately, they can be a blessing to your family and friends.

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. " I Peter 1:18-19.

The Jews and Gentiles that Peter was writing to had inherited empty traditions from their parents and forefathers. Some were probably inherently wicked traditions, but others probably started out good yet lost their meaning becoming dry and lifeless. This passage is a challenge for us as we establish traditions for our family.

Traditions can be bondage when they no longer hold meaning for those participating yet we feel we must continue. Or when carrying them out requires so much skill and energy that our family suffers. When we spend three weeks staying up past midnight to emboss our handmade Christmas cards and neglect our home and snap at the children, maybe it's time to reconsider. Traditions can be bondage when we have absolutely no idea why we are doing them. The story is told of a woman who bought a ham each year and cut off the end three year inches. Her husband watched this after year and finally asked her why. "Because my mother did," was her reply. The husband then asked his mother-in-law receiving the same answer. He then asked the grandmother who laughed while explaining that her pan was too small to hold the whole ham. No tradition brings life when we absolutely can't stand doing it. Why serve candied sweet potatoes at Christmas dinner if no one in the family likes them?