

TRADITIONS TO ESTABLISH

WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF TRADITIONS

- They can give us a sense of shared identity and belonging
- They can teach us about our heritage (be it cultural or religious)
- They can impart family values
- They can help us navigate change
- They can generate wonderful memories

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF TRADITIONS

- They can wear us out trying to keep them
- They can prevent us from seeing the newness and freshness of life
- They can cause us to perform tasks artificially
- They can disorient our direction
- They can teach us wrongly about who we are and what we believe.

*And how do we keep our balance?
That I can tell you in one word!
Tradition!
Tradition
Tradition
Because of our traditions,
we've kept our balance for many, many years.
Here in Anateeka,
we have traditions for everything.
How to sleep.
How to eat.
How to work,
How to wear clothes.
For instance,
we always keep our heads covered,
and always wear a little prayer shawl.
This shows our constant devotion to God.
You may ask,
how did this tradition get started?
I'll tell you.
I don't know.
But it's a tradition.
And because of our traditions,
every one of us knows who he is
and what God expects him to do.*

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT TRADITION

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

*"This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."
You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."*

Mark 7:1-8

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT TRADITION

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:6-10