



WORDS FROM  
*Pastor Randy*

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We must always be on guard lest we mistakenly confuse tradition as truth. The seven last words of any dying church have not changed for over twenty years: “We’ve never done it that way before.”

The truth of the matter is that our having done a thing or not done a thing has absolutely nothing to do with the truth of it! We must not classify things as being right or wrong simply because we do them or we don’t do them.

Truth is not based on what I say or what you say, but upon what God says about the matter. Just because something is different doesn’t mean that it’s wrong. Just because I or you don’t like it doesn’t mean that it’s wrong.

Many in the church are guilty of trying to put God in their little box. It’s so we can control Him. We know where He is and what He would do in every situation. We actually think we’ve got God all figured out. What utter non sense! God does what He wants to do, when He wants to do it, how He wants to do it! He’s never called Rome, Nashville, or Anniston for one word of advice. The only one you ever limit when you try to put God in your little box is yourself.

When we value personal preferences or individual likes and dislikes more than we do Biblical truth, we actually lean toward idolatry. It was the Pharisee’s problem. They had all the rules and rituals, but lacked relationship. They dotted every I and crossed every T, but missed the whole matter of knowing God completely.

Tradition can get in the way of progress. It did when George Whitfield and John Wesley preached out in the open fields. It did when Martin Luther insisted on making the Bible available to every church member, not leaving it chained to the pulpit for the clergy’s eyes only.

Did you know that it was only in the 12<sup>th</sup> century that people begin sitting down in a worship service while the preacher preached? This is why we have pews to sit in today. How would you like to stand up while I preached? I heard that moan out there! Martin Luther was greatly opposed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when he brought an organ onto the sanctuary. In those days, organs were played at bars. Can you imagine the controversy that he must have stirred up! Yes, the same strife that drums and guitars in the church have created in a lot of places.

My point is that over the years a great number of very meaningful things have been criticized by the religious establishment. It’s OK to tolerate some things that we might not particularly prefer. Stop letting style and opinion be the absolute standard for judging spiritual legitimacy.

After all, it’s the message that’s never changed. God forbid that anybody ever try to update the gospel. You can’t reform it or make it “cool” for anybody. The gospel message remains forever unchanged!

Methods are and have always been changing. It’s just as wrong to mimic an old method simply because God used it in the past, as it is to blatantly oppose a new method simply because it’s different. God may just jump out of that box and bless it in spite of you and me!

Think about that,

AMEN.

Pastor Randy

# Trivia That Isn't Trivial

1. What is the longest Psalm in the Bible?
2. What was the name of the garden Jesus prayed in?
3. What was the name of the eight-year-old boy who served as king of Jerusalem for 100 days?

## ANSWERS

1. Psalm 119 (176 verses)
2. Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36)
3. Jehoiachin (2 Chronicles 36:9)