

# The Relationship Between Tradition and Faith



Tradition

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# Introduction

- **Contintuity and reliance on tradition for identity: Jews and Greeks**
- **Definition of “tradition” by Jarislav Pelikan**
- **1. P-K4 P-K5 chess opening traditional to algebraic notation= 1.e4 e5**



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# Introduction

- **The tension between tradition and change—over time, constantly dropping and adding**
- **The function of tradition, i.e., its advantages**
- **The dysfunction of tradition, i.e., its disadvantages**
- **Consider this as a foundational lesson**

# Jesus' view of tradition?

- Jesus' classifications
- His participation



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# Paul's view of tradition?

- His own Pharisaic tradition  
(Acts 22:3—sat at the feet of Gamliel & Galatians 1:14)
- Traditions you have received



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# Tradition in early church history?

- Early bishops
- Water with the Lord's supper
- White robes for baptism
- Assembly became worship
- Agape love feasts for setting of Lord's supper gets dropped



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# **What is the difference between tradition & faith?**

- **Faith is grounded in the work of God & my response, my trust...faith is relational response**
- **Tradition is what the response looks like over time...focuses on the methodology, or type of response**

# **journey from practical tradition to sacred tradition?**

- **Illustration of white cloth**
- **Illustration of wine to grape juice**
- **Illustration of convenience meeting places to church buildings**
- **Mundane, practical, time-honored, “sacred”, biblical=unconsciously equate the two.**



# current challenges from our own historical tradition?

- Hard look at our own traditions that may keep us from reaching out to others
- Judgmental, sectarian, exclusivism—where we do nothing with other religious groups



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# current challenges from our own historical tradition?

- Role of baptism
- Role of women
- Place of the church building in the practice of our faith
- The role of the evangelist/exhorter
- Our music—type and style



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# current challenges from our own historical tradition?

- Denominational view of ourselves
- Role of elders/ministers, deacons, etc.
- How we practice communion



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