

GENERATIONS CHURCH

ESSENTIALS

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QUESTION: DO YOU THINK HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN?

Answer: "You know, I can't honestly answer that. I have too many people that I love that they are homosexual ... um ... I don't know. I just had a conversation about with someone last night about it. I can't say one way or another about it."

LESSON ONE: TRADITIONS

ESSENTIALS

2 TIMOTHY 2:1–2

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

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GOAL AND FOCUS TONIGHT

- ▶ Our goal tonight is New Testament proof of an established teaching in the church, and Paul's expectation that everyone would adhere to it.
- ▶ Paul taught a body of truth to the church, as taught to him by Jesus and other disciples. In his early letters he called this patterns, traditions, instructions, and commandments. Later moving to "sound doctrine". Focus on how Paul understood these truths, how he passed them on, and what he believed about everyone adhering to them (being normative).

TRADITIONS

- ▶ 2 Thessalonians 2:15
- ▶ 2 Thessalonians 3:6
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 11:2

OTHER TRADITIONS

- ▶ Matthew 15:2-3
- ▶ Mark 7:8-9
- ▶ Galatians 1:14
- ▶ Colossians 2:8

BEFORE WE MOVE ON...

Our next set of verses focuses on the word “delivered” but in Greek it is rooted in the very same word as “traditions”.

How might this impact the way we “deliver” teaching or “traditions” in the church?

PARADOSIS AND PARADIDOMAI

DELIVERED

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 11:2
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 11:23-24
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:3
- ▶ Acts 16:4

SOUND DOCTRINE

- ▶ 1 Timothy 6:1-3
- ▶ 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- ▶ Titus 2:1

QUESTIONS

1. How did Paul view the traditions, patterns, and sound doctrine, he was delivering to the churches? How important was it to Paul? To what degree did he expect it to be followed?
2. What did Paul understand was the source of these instructions (doctrine) for the churches? Did Paul recognize other traditions that were not right, and what was the difference?
3. Can Paul's traditions (instructions, commandments, patterns, and sound doctrines) be systematized for the church today? For all centuries?
4. How does the average church today view these instructions, commandments, teachings, traditions, and doctrines? What might be some of the reasons that people minimize them in our churches today?

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FURTHER READING

- ▶ 1 Timothy 4:1-16
- ▶ 1 Timothy 6:1-10

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