

Concerning the traditions of the Jews, and apostate Christians.

By George Fox

Christ said to the Pharisees, 'Why do you transgress the command of God by your traditions? You hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you: This people draws near me with their mouth, and honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. But in vain do you worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of none effect by your traditions. Mat 15:3-9.

And again Christ said unto the scribes and Pharisees, 'Laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the traditions of men, and of your elders;' and again he said unto them, 'Full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own traditions, making the word of God of none effect through your traditions which you have delivered.' Mark 7:3,8-9,13.

Now is not this the condition of the apostate christians that set up their traditions above the scriptures of truth, like the Jews, and forbid the reading of the scriptures of truth?* No, are not they worse than the Jews, for they must read and pray in an unknown tongue; so are like barbarians, worse than the Jews who read and pray in their mother tongue?

*[Evidently at this time, (1670) the Roman Catholic sect did forbid the reading of the scriptures by any except the priests. They also read and prayed in Latin, not the tongue of their hearers.]

And Paul said to the church of Christ, 'You have heard of my conduct in times past, in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it, and profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers; but when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to **reveal his son in me**, that I might preach him,' Gal 1:13-16.

Now here you may see while Paul [as unconverted Saul] was zealous of the traditions of his forefathers, he was not separate from traditions, nor called by God's grace, nor the son of God was not revealed in him; therefore he was not likely to preach him, but persecute him.

And now are all the apostate christians in their blind zeal of their forefathers, (like persecuting Saul), separate from the Lord, and not so called by God's grace, as Paul was? And is the son of God revealed in those who have been such persecutors and wasters of God's people, the church of Christ, since the apostles' days? And if not, can they preach Christ in truth, but resist him like the Jews in their traditions, and set traditions above the holy scriptures of truth that testify of Christ?

And after the apostle was converted, he told the church of Christ 'Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, and not after Christ; if you are dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as living in the world, are you subject to ordinances? Touch not, taste not, handle not, which all are to perish with the using, after the commandments and doctrines of men; which if you are risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.' Col 2:8, 20-22, 3:2.

So you may see that the apostle brought the church of Christ off the traditions, and doctrines, and ordinances of men, and rudiments of the world; and would not have them to be spoiled by any man, through philosophy and vain deceit, for such things as these were not after Christ. But the church of Christ was, and is to seek those things that are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God, and not those things on the earth, which are below; they are not so much as to touch, taste, nor handle them, all which perish with the using; but the scriptures of truth they are to read, believe, and practice. For the church of Christ then, and now, know that they are not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from their vain conduct, or by the traditions of their forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without spot or blemish. Glory to God forever, through the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only one mediator between God and man, even the man Christ Jesus, who makes peace between us and God; the same today, yesterday, and forever.

Christ is the rock and foundation which the heavenly Father revealed to Peter, on which he builds his church, and not on Peter, nor that which flesh and blood had revealed to Peter.

Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' and the disciples answered and said, 'Some say you are John Baptist, and some say Elias, and others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.'

Here you may see there were diverse judgments and opinions of Christ among people that did not know him. And Jesus said to his disciples, 'But whom do you say that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are Christ, the son of the living God;' and Jesus answered and said, 'You are blessed Simon Bar-Jonah,

for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven; and I say unto you that you are Peter, and upon this rock will I build my church,' (mark, he said upon this rock, which flesh and blood had not revealed, he does not say upon you Peter), 'and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it.' Mat 16:13-18. And Jesus showed to his disciples how he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 'Then Peter took Christ, and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' Then Christ turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.' Mat 21-23.

Now here you may clearly see that Christ does not build his church upon Peter, as a man of flesh and blood, or that which flesh and blood reveals, but upon that rock* which flesh and blood had not revealed unto Peter, but the Father which is in heaven. And so I say again, it is clear, that Christ does not build his church upon Peter and his outward name, as a man of flesh and blood, nor upon that which flesh and blood may reveal, or did reveal unto Peter; but he builds his church upon that rock which the Father who is in heaven had revealed to Peter, which was, 'You are Christ the son of the living God.' This is the rock and foundation that the true church is built upon, Christ who bruises the serpent's head, and destroys the devil and his works; so that the gates of hell cannot, nor shall not prevail against Christ's church, and him the rock and foundation, which his church is built upon. And though Christ blessed Peter in Mat 16:17, after his revelation, yet in the later verse, Mat 16:23, Christ said unto Peter, 'Get you behind me Satan, you are an offence unto me, for you savor not the things which be of God, but those that be of men.' So here it is clear, Christ did not build his church upon Peter, nor his outward name Peter, as a man of flesh and blood, nor the revelation of flesh and blood, nor upon Satan, for he bruises Satan the serpent's head; so he was not like to build his church upon him. Therefore, any who are to succeed Peter, must receive what the Father revealed from heaven, (namely), 'you are Christ the son of the living God,' 'upon this rock will I build my church;' but when Peter rebuked Christ, saying, 'Let this not be Lord; this must not happen to you,' (namely, when Christ told him and the rest that he would suffer and be killed, and rise again the third day), Christ called Peter Satan, and told him get him behind him, as before.

*The Lord speaks of this same rock or understanding or revelation in Luke. For **everyone who** comes to Me and listens to My words and does them, I will show you what he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug and went down deep and laid a foundation upon the **rock**; and when a flood arose, the torrent broke against that house and could not shake or move it, because **it had been securely built or founded on a rock**. Luke 6:47-48
He builds his Church on a rock solid foundation. He builds himself in you on a rock solid foundation. If you go to Him (within you), listen to his words, and then

obey them, **you have identified the speaker as Christ** — just like Peter did in the physical realm, except your identification of Christ is in the spiritual realm within you.

Paul said: According to the grace (the special endowment for my task) of God bestowed on me, like a skillful architect and master builder I laid [the] foundation, and now another [man] is building upon it. But let each [man] be careful how he builds upon it. 1 Cor 3:10

The correct foundation is very important and key to your potential growth. Your foundation will come from Christ himself.

And Christ said unto Peter, he was 'an offence unto him, and savored not those things that are of God, but those that are of men,' in that which he said to Christ. And what, are any so ignorant as to think that Christ has built his church upon Peter, as he was in this condition? No, surely, they are mistaken who think so; and those who do succeed Peter in that condition, they do not savor the things of God, but of men, and are an offence to Christ, whom Christ calls Satan, and tells Satan [possessing and speaking through Peter] to get behind him; for he was not likely to build his church upon what was an offence unto him, and savored not the things of God, but the things of men. And therefore those who build their church upon such, the gates of hell are likely to prevail against them; and those who succeed Peter in that spiritual revelation, which the Father revealed from heaven, namely, Christ, the son of the living God, upon which rock the true church is built, which the gates of hell shall not prevail against; this is above Satan, and the revelation of flesh and blood, and above what offended [and offends] Christ, and above what savors the things of men, and not the things of God, and above what flesh and blood may reveal. Christ's church is not built upon such things, but the rock which is far above them, which the heavenly Father reveals, and has the glory of it, who is blessed forever. Amen.

George Fox

Now concerning whom the scripture said is the true rock and foundation.

David said, 'The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer.' Psa 18:2. And again, David said, 'For who is God save the Lord, or who is a rock save our God.' Psa 18:31. And again, 'He (God), only is my rock and salvation, he is my defense, I shall not be moved. Psa 62:2,6. And David speaking of Israel, said, 'They remembered that God was their rock.' Psa 78:35.

And Isaiah speaking of Christ, said, that 'he shall be for a sanctuary, a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, to both the houses of Israel.' And Peter is so far off from looking upon himself to be the rock upon which Christ builds his church, that he tells the church of Christ, in his General Epistle, that Christ was 'a

stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence to those who stumble at the word, being disobedient.' 1 Pet 2:8. For the apostle said to the Romans, the church of Christ, speaking of Christ, 'Behold I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence, and whoever believes in him shall not be ashamed;' this was Christ, and not Peter, Rom 9:33. And the apostle tells the church of Christ, speaking of Israel, how that 'they all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank of the same spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ.' 1 Cor 10:4. So he did not say it [the rock] was Peter, nor any outward man.

And the wise man builds his house upon the rock Christ Jesus; if it is not, the rain and the floods will beat it down, as in Mat 7:25. And the apostle tells the church of Christ, 'No other foundation can any man lay than that which is already laid, which is Christ Jesus.' 1 Cor 3:11. And again he said to the Ephesians, 'You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone;' so the rock and foundation of God stands sure, Christ Jesus, who is the same yesterday, and today, and so forever.

The antiquity of our cross.

The apostle said to the church of Christ, that 'the preaching of the cross is to those who perish foolishness; but unto us that are saved, it is the power of God.' 1 Cor 1:18. And such as were and are enemies to the cross of Christ, were and are enemies to the power of God; so all your stone, wooden, brass, silver or gold crosses you have invented and set up since the apostles' days, are not the cross of Christ the power of God.

And the apostle said, 'God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.' Gal 6:14. So it was the power of God, the cross of Christ, that the apostle gloried in, by whom the world was crucified unto him, and he unto the world; and this is our cross which was set up above one thousand six hundred years ago; and it is not likely that it was a cross made of wood, stone, iron, brass, silver or gold that the apostle or the church of Christ gloried in, or that such outward temporal and worldly crosses as men make and invent, should crucify people to the world! That which crucifies people to the world, and the world to them, is the cross of Christ, the power of God, which power of God all are to bow down to. They are foolish and dark that think a cross of stone, wood, iron, silver, or gold, which man has made, is the cross of Christ, the power of God; and to bow to such worldly temporal things, and call them the cross of Christ, is contrary to the scriptures that the apostles taught to the church of Christ, in their day. This [power of God, which crucifies the world to a person and that person to the world] was the church of Christ's cross in their days, and is the church of Christ's cross now; but the early church of Christ could not, nor can we bow to any

temporal, outward, worldly cross that men have made with their hands, and then to bow down to them; for such as do worship the works of their own hands are enemies to the cross of Christ, the power of God.

There were such in the apostles' days that were vainly puffed up with their fleshly minds, not holding Christ the head, and so there are now, from which head all the body of Christ by joints and bands has nourishment ministered, and by him is knit together, and increases with the increase of God; as in Col 2:18-19.

Now Christ enlightens every man that comes into the world with the light, the life that is in him, the head, by whom the world was made, that with the light they might see Christ, and him the head of the body, his church, by which all the children of the light and of the day may be knit together in him, and have their increase of God ministered through him, and so to have fellowship with the Father and the son, and one with another.

*[Fellowship is in the Spirit, with the Father and the Son - as well as fellowship in the Spirit with fellow believers, both local and remote. Fox spoke of knowing each other in the Spirit, which was far beyond and acquaintance made in the flesh by speech and gesture.]

Now all those who are intruding into things they have not seen, puffed up with a fleshly mind, and do not hold Christ their head, but have set up other heads, have broken into sects, schisms, and divisions one against another: this is clearly seen now, as it was in the apostles' days.

George Fox

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