

Christ in Our Home

from Saturday, February 8, 2020

Mark 7:1-8

What matters most?

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition. (v8)

How many things do you do a certain way because that's how a parent or teacher did them? When you visit another church, do you complain inwardly when worship doesn't follow the order you're used to? What are traditions, really, but behavioral patterns we've grown so attached to that anything else seems ... wrong?

Adiaphora refers to anything that is debatable or spiritually neutral, neither commanded nor forbidden by scripture. Yet all too often we allow *adiaphora*, mere habit or tradition --- such as where the pastor stands to preach or what parts of the liturgy are used --- to morph into legalism. Then we pass judgment.

Instead, Jesus teaches that God isn't concerned with our human practices but with the condition of our hearts. Micah 6:8 says plainly: "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

God, move us to care about what most concerns you: that we treat others with love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer concern: Those who work for justice and mercy.

Psalm 112:1-9[10]; Isaiah 29:13-16

From Christ in Our Home (January, February, March 2020) p. 42. Reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress. No further reproduction is allowed without the permission of the publisher.