

Tell us why you do not use instrumental music in your worship services! Tell us why you teach that there is only one church that belongs to the Lord! Tell us why you teach that a believer must be baptized in order to be saved! Tell us why you do not have benevolent and edification societies (Bible colleges, institutional homes)!

The above statements are just a few thoughts that come to mind regarding some of the issues in the religious world today. Many do not give much thought to what has and is continuing to take place in the Lord's church. Jesus had to deal with this same attitude in Matthew 15:2. "Why do Your disciples...." They approached Jesus asking him why did the disciples not follow their human tradition? To be blatantly honest, Jesus simply strikes back at them explaining that their human traditions caused them to violate God's written law and thus they were guilty of sin.

When Jesus was questioned about his disciples, he answered back with a "why do you transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Jesus took their question and fired it right back at them. You asked me why. Now you tell me why!

Those who call themselves Christians would never question the motives of Jesus in regards to the issue here in Matthew 15. They would never accuse Jesus of being unreasonable. They would never point the finger at Jesus and tell him to "not sweat the small stuff". For some strange reason when it comes to the church today, that is exactly what we are told! People will fight tooth and nail for their man-made traditions before they stand up for the truth that is revealed in God's word.

Like Jesus did to those Pharisees and scribes, I answer your question by asking you a question! Why do you teach and practice these things? Why do you go beyond God's written law for the sake of your tradition?

You tell me why you use instrumental music for worship in this dispensation. The only music that is authorized is vocal music. Eph 5:19; Col 3:16. God has specified what he wanted in regards to worship. One might ask "what about the Law of Moses? They had instrumental music in worship then!" Yes, there was instrumental music at God's command but there was also a temple, altars, incense burning, dietary laws, circumcision, and yearly festivals. What changed all these things? Christ dying on the cross! If we are to use instrumental music simply because it was in the Old Law then we must also practice circumcision. Paul said "Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace" Galatians 5:2-4. Please note what verse 4 says and what it means! Paul is saying that if you justify your religious practice by the Old Law, then you are no longer under grace! He is saying that you cannot have it both ways. You do not get to go back to the Old Law and serve under Christ. Sadly, the majority of the religious world does exactly that.

You tell me why there is more than one church that belongs to the Lord when the Bible says "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In Ephesians 1, Paul says "gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." The scriptures affirm that there is just one body; Ephesians 4:4.

You tell me why baptism has nothing to do with salvation when Jesus says “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Tell me why baptism is not for the remission of sins when Peter says that it is in Acts 2:38. Tell me why baptism does not wash away sins and is not one calling upon the name of the Lord when it says that it is in Acts 22:16. I am no scholar. I do not claim to know everything but here is what I do know. If God’s word reveals that “baptism doth also now save us”; who am I or anyone for that matter to argue that baptism is not essential for man to come into contact with Christ’s blood? God is not the author of confusion. Either Jesus, Peter, and the rest of the New Testament writers are liars, or it is man who continues to teach doctrines that are contrary to God’s word!

You tell me why the church is not able to fulfill its role in the teaching of the Gospel? Why do we need other institutions to carry on the work of the church? Paul says, “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” We can interject that we have made things more efficient by means of expediency, but the reality is, God does not need our help in the slightest. His design, His plans, His blueprints are perfect.

I say all of that to say this. You tell me why you fail to obey when you know what the truth is. What is your reaction when you see something that is taught by the authority of man rather than the authority of God? 2 John 9-11 makes it very clear. I encourage you to stand up for what is right. Not what seems right at the time, but for what is right at all times. Eternity is forever. Do not miss out of Heaven.

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