

I feel the need to start by expressing that I am not offended by anyone, nor do I write this to offend anyone. I am concerned that Bible believing people are so committed to traditions of men that they are not considering how God sees those traditions. "By the traditions of men you nullify the word of God." Many people that I love dearly, warm compassionate people that have love for their fellow man, are practicing pagan traditions and are unaware. I write this for those who love and trust God so much they are willing to believe He knows what is best. Those who trust God so much they are willing to follow His truth and risk that they might offend their fellow man. They are willing to take that risk understanding that God has a better plan and ultimately His way is the only way that His Kingdom will prosper.

What does God say about following the practices of the pagans or the nations?

*Deuteronomy 18:9 (KJ2000) When you are come into the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to do after the **abominations** of those nations.*

*Leviticus 20:23 (KJ2000) And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I **abhorred** them.*

*1 Kings 12:25-30 (KJ2000) Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt there; and went out from there, and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. Therefore the king took counsel, **and made two calves** of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan. And **this thing became a sin**: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.*

*Isaiah 8:11 (KJ2000) For the LORD spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me **that I should not walk in the way of this people**, saying,*

*Ephesians 4:17 (KJ2000) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, **that you no longer walk as other Gentiles walk**, in the vanity of their mind,*

*1 Corinthians 10:21 (KJ2000) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of demons: **you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of demons.***

*2 Corinthians 6:15-17 (KJ2000) And what harmony has Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believes with an infidel? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? for you are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore **come out***

from among them, and be you separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

*1 Kings 18:21 (KJ2000) And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long do you halt between two opinions? **If the LORD is God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.** And the people answered him not a word.*

Judges 10:14 (KJ2000) Go and cry unto the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your distress.

*1 Peter 4:2-4 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life will suffice us to have done the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in licentiousness, lusts, excess of wine, reveling, carousing, and **abominable idolatries: In which they think it strange that you run not with them** to the same excess of dissipation, speaking evil of you:*

As believers in the faith of salvation by the selfless sacrifice of our Lord, should we look different than the rest of the world? Should we be partakers of the same actions as the rest of the world? I wonder if some of the things that we partake of are really of God or even are acceptable to God (the God, the one and only God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob). Are there practices that the world does that lead to licentiousness, lusts, excess of wine, reveling, carousing, and abominable idolatries that we may be too blind to even notice we are committing. I suspect from the study of church history that the church fathers overlooked the introduction of a little paganism into the church to make it easy for the pagans to come into the church. With good intentions, the church fathers felt they would get them in the doors and then slowly wean the new congregants of the paganism. What does God say about that?

*1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know you not that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump?***

Study the history of the church from the first century to full fledge Catholicism. The little leaven took over the whole system. Are not most believers today part of a Protestant body of believers? That is only another way to say "Protesting Catholics". Where did the celebrations we partake of come from: Halloween, Christmas, Easter are all festivals of pagan origin. Don't take my word for it, study it out. But hurry, the books are being rewritten; just like the catholic catechism that prior to 1863 clearly identified Sunday worship was a true test of a person's belief that the Pope was the supreme authority of God on earth. The catechism has now been rewritten to avoid unpleasantries and embarrassment. Five years ago all history would clearly identify the origins of Christmas as coming from the religion of sun worship (mithraism). Today many sources identify it as having its first origin in Christianity. History is being rewritten as you read

this. If you don't know where the traditions that you are observing came from, you don't know who you are following.

“But that is not what it means to me?” I don't seek to offend you. But I couldn't give a rip less of what it means to you. What does it mean to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

*Exodus 32:4-5 (KJ2000) And he received them from their hand, and fashioned it with an engraving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, **Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD (YHWH).***

At the end of verse five they actually called their pagan idol YHWH. What did it mean to them then and there and **what did it mean to God?**

*Exodus 32:7-10 (KJ2000) And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get you down; for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, These are your gods, O Israel, who have brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people: Now therefore **let me alone, that my wrath may grow hot against them, and that I may consume them:** and I will make of you a great nation.*

God saw constructing the golden calf and using the calf to worship Him as an abomination. Consider the following scriptures:

*Deuteronomy 18:9 (KJ2000) When you are come into the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to do after the **abominations** of those nations.*

Leviticus 18:22 (KJ2000) You shall not lie with a man, as with a woman: it is abomination.

*Deuteronomy 7:26 (KJ2000) **Neither shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you become an accursed thing like it: but you shall utterly detest it, and you shall utterly abhor it; for it is an accursed thing.***

From God's perspective, the practice of pagan rituals even, even if claimed to be in His honor, is no different than the practice of homosexuality. I didn't say it. God did. Could the God of Israel be speaking of such practices as Easter that is patterned after the worship of the fertility god Ishtar, Halloween that is patterned to offer appeasement offerings to the demons so they will leave you alone in the following year or perhaps observance of the solar equinox patterned to pay homage to the sun god Mithra?

Do you hate the people who commit these acts? **EMPHATICALLY NO**; hate the sin, pray for the sinner. Deception is a very powerful blinder. But God has called the believer to be watchmen on the wall. We are called to be witnesses. To do less is just as big an abomination as paganism or homosexuality or any other abomination that God has called us to abstain from.

If it is a holiday worth all the work of celebrating, know why. Know who the holiday was created to serve. If it is not in the Bible, you really need to know why you are celebrating it. If the whole world is willing to accept and embrace a practice, is that consistent with historical knowledge of the world's reaction to the things of God? Even the Muslims, the Hindus and the Buddhist are joining in with Christmas these days. **If you find it has pagan origins and God said to abstain from it, why are you still doing it? Do you believe you know better than God? Do you think God didn't understand what would be happening in our time? Are you smarter than God and understand things He missed about how to get people saved? Is God really God in your life when you believe His instructions are not for you?**

John 6:60 (KJ2000) Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?

John 6:66 (KJ2000) From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

What golden calf born of paganism have we placed in our lives to dance around, bow down to and call YHWH?

Consider what happened to the Children of Israel when they began to incorporate the pagan practices of the people around them into their own worship. It took several hundred years each time, but in the end God's judgment fell upon them and they were exiled from the land of promise. People who do not know their history are doomed to repeat it. Do we really want us and our children to suffer being overrun by our enemy, starved, slaughtered, tortured, tormented, the babies heads dashed against the rocks, the bellies of the pregnant being slashed open and the remaining carried off into captivity and slavery?

Please prayerfully consider, "***Therefore come out from among them, and be you separate, says the Lord,***"

God Bless.