

Traditions, Superstitions, and Consensus Christianity

From: Know and Believe:
A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You
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We expect lies to be shoveled out about our God, and we aren't surprised when those who do not know God have contrary opinions about Him, but we should also be aware there are certain "truths" circulating within the church that bring God's love into question.

Not every word spoken in a pulpit, written in a Christian book, or spoken at a religious conference is correct. We need to keep our thinking caps securely in place as we listen to teachings, songs, or while reading a book. Just because a famous Christian author, talented worship team, or renowned preacher proclaims something doesn't mean it is true. Nor is something valid because someone posted it on social media.¹

Perhaps you've also seen these teaching trends come and go over your lifetime. A certain teaching, not based on Scripture, is repeated so often it becomes accepted as truth. Christian songwriters then put these concepts into songs. We sing them, so they must be true, right? I call this Consensus Christianity. We believe something because many teachers are teaching it and most everyone believes it. But—*is it true?* Not necessarily.

While some teachers are quite *deliberate* in what they falsely teach (their motives can only truly be known by God), the more dangerous ones are those who teach these traditions and superstitions *believing* they are correct.

While God will hold false teachers accountable, each believer is individually responsible to listen and evaluate what he hears. When something is taught that casts doubt on God's goodness and the veracity of His promises to us, we need to take the time to refute that teaching because, you see, the *motivation* behind a false teaching isn't what damages us—it's the *teaching* itself. One teacher might be trying to manipulate you and another sincerely trying to help you, but if either one feeds you poison, you will get sick. That's why *we* must take responsibility to "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good" (1 Th. 5:21).

¹ These topics are discussed in much more detail in [Overcoming the Overwhelming](#).

There are many Christians whose lives are a clear reflection of God's love. We can see God's love manifested in how they speak, how they interact with others, in what they teach about God, and even in how they go through difficulties. Perhaps you were blessed with parents who not only taught you about God's love, but who showed you His love by how they treated you.

Perhaps your parents fell short in this area, but you married someone whose life and love for you clearly portrays the love of God. Even if your spouse is not a perfect example, perhaps you know God's love via your love for your own children and perhaps by their love for you.

It is wonderful to love and to be loved, but we must always keep in mind what my mother repeatedly taught me, "People will fail you, Cathy, but Jesus never will. Keep your eyes on Jesus." Yes, there might be many people who radiate the love of God, but even if *they* fail you, this is not a reflection on our God. His love for you, unlike human love, is constant and infallible. His love never fails.

"Father, we choose to believe You are good and You love us. We reject every voice that rises in accusation against You. We live in a world that is so corrupt, one that scoffs at the thought of Your existence and ridicules those who believe in You. Yet You still reach out to us in love. Father, we receive

Your love and believe in Your goodness."

When the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7