

Tradition

And Its Relationship To THE ALMIGHTY

What would be the best way to maintain a good relationship with THE ALMIGHTY as we are practicing our own traditions? It seems fairly easy. Just don't put out any effort to change what is simply stated in Scripture. You know those things that G-d said! Just don't add or subtract from them.

Yet, it seems that throughout history it has been part of the traditions of Christianity and Judaism to do just that, both adding and subtracting. Generally speaking, Christianity has taken away more than it has added. And Judaism historically has added more than it has taken away. In more recent times the Reform and Reconstructionist movements within Judaism have sided with Christianity and have taken away more than they have added. However, it seems as though the Conservative branch of Judaism is split. The Liberal wing of the Conservative movement seems to be more like the Reform or the Reconstructionist; while the Conservadox wing of the Conservative movement seems to lean more toward Orthodox Judaism, with mixed seating.

Up until now, most of what we have written in the way of Booklets and Study Sheets, as well as our original Book (written back in the 80's) dealt with the Christian aspects of taking away from what G-d had given in His Torah as we stated in the previous paragraph. Some Christians and even more Messianic Christians keep asking us about the addition side of the equation. So, it seems as though it is time to level the scales and address the Jewish aspect of the aforementioned paragraph.

So where should we start? Perhaps, the Torah might be the best place to start; knowing that we can always benefit from its instruction.

Deuteronomy 5:32

“So you shall observe to do just as the Lord your G-d has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.”

Right wing or Left wing? Is it possible that this could also mean the Right wing whether political or religious as well as Left wing whether political or religious? Perhaps we are to stay to the left of the extreme Right wing and to the right of the extreme Left wing? Thereby holding

to the best of both? Because if we are, figuratively speaking, standing in the center of a circle, facing THE ALMIGHTY, and begin to turn toward either side of the circle, left or right, we begin to turn away from HIM. And if we turn far enough, eventually we will be facing the other side of the circle. By then we will have turned our back on THE ALMIGHTY.

Even though, not adding or taking away applies to all aspects of one's theology. Perhaps one of the more obvious places for us to see this, and the one we are going to use as our example, is in the meat and milk aspect of Talmudic Kashroot.

So, where does the prohibition against consuming milk, cheese, yogurt, sour cream, butter and anything containing them in the same meal with meat, come from?

Exodus 23:19

“...You are not to boil a kid in the milk of its mother”

לֹא-תִבְשַׁל גְּדִי בַחֲלֵב אִמּוֹ

The argument goes something like this: Since we do not know whether the milk has come from this animal's mother or not, we can not consume them both in the same meal.

Yet, it seems that if someone is eating lamb and drinking cows milk or eating cows cheese; or even eating anything with dairy products from a cow in it; that we could be relatively certain that the cow is **not** the mother of that lamb! And therefore, is not under the Biblical prohibition.

Deuteronomy 4:2

“You shall not add to the words which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your G-d which I command you.”

לֹא תִסְפוּ עַל-הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא תִגְרְעוּ מִמֶּנּוּ
לְשַׁמֵּר אֶת-מִצְוֹת הַשֵּׁם אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה אֶתְכֶם

Joshua 1:7

“... be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.”

Exodus 34:26

“...You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk.”

לֹא-תִבְשַׁל גְּדִי בַחֲלֵב אִמּוֹ

One might also ask, “What about consuming dairy products from a certified purebred Guernsey, Jersey, Holstein, Brown Swiss or any other dairy breed; while eating certified purebred Angus beef in the same meal? Once again, a person can be certain that the dairy cow is **not** the mother of that certified purebred Angus animal.

Deuteronomy 13:1

(12:32 in most Christian Bibles)

“Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do;
you shall not add to nor take away from it.”

את כל־הדבר אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם אתו תשמרו
לעשות לא־תסף עליו ולא תגרע ממנו

Joshua 23:6

“Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right or to the left.”

Deuteronomy 14:21

“...You shall not boil a kid in its mother’s milk.”

לא־תבשל גדי בחלב אמו

Notice: It does not say a calf, male calf or bullock, which would be עגל. Nor does it say female calf or heifer עגלה. In addition it does not say a lamb כשב or a female lamb or ewe כשבה. What it does say is a גדי a kid or kid-goat.

Deuteronomy 13:1

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“Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do;
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את כל־הדבר אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם אתו תשמרו
לעשות לא־תסף עליו ולא תגרע ממנו

Proverbs 4:26-27

Watch the path of your feet,
And all your ways will be established.
Do not turn to the right nor to the left;...

Please! Don’t think that I am trying to condemn the exercising of various traditions, whether they are dietary or any other type of tradition. So long as they are expressed as a tradition, rather than acting as though it was some sort of Command From G-d.

For example: We see that in the Bible there is a story about a group of people called the Rechabites. Their forefather had set forth a certain set of practices as a tradition for them. This is recorded in Jeremiah chapter 35.

In doing so they were not adding to G-ds Law, but rather they were exercising their option, of keeping their family's tradition, which they had vowed to keep. They did **not** say that it was part of G-ds Law, for them to be doing so. This means that they were not adding to or taking away from what G-d had put in His Law. Yet, they were still faithful to their traditions.

If someone chooses to hold to a more restrictive dietary regiment than G-d has required in His word; then that is fine, well and good; so long as they do not claim that G-d is requiring it of everyone else. When the ALMIGHTY has not required in the Torah or Tanach; but rather He has left it as a personal option. So, if someone is choosing to exercise their option and keep the extra restrictions on food found in the Talmud, that is fine, well and good. Just so long as they do not claim that G-d has made these extra restrictions mandatory for every descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!

Because, if they do claim that these Talmudic additions were given by G-d, it would be at odds with what the ALMIGHTY said earlier:

Deuteronomy 4:2

“You shall not add to the words which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your G-d which I command you.”

לא תספו על-הדבר אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם ולא תגרעו ממנו
לשמר את-מצות השם אלהיכם אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם

The Authors of this booklet have, in the past, been accused of being Karites. This is not true! Karites reject all Rabbinical authority. But the Authors of this booklet do not! All of the Rabbinical authority found in Scripture (which is that of a Judge) is valid. However, when the Rabbinical authority moves outside of the boundaries set forth by G-d HIMSELF, then those things are not valid. Yet, this concept seems rather difficult for some to grasp. Far too many seem to be convinced that it is either, all or nothing? There are those who seem to think that the historic Rabbis of old, as well as more modern ones, are somehow not bound by ALL of that which is found in the Torah?

Some Jewish individuals have said that this perspective (of the booklet's Authors) is not in tune with those of the famous Rabbis of History and Jewish tradition!

One can't help but wonder:

If someone is *knowingly* putting the traditions of their religion and its historic Rabbis above the requirements of G-d; are they, or are they not, participating in a form of Ancestor Worship?

Deuteronomy 5:32

“So you shall observe to do just as the Lord your G-d has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.”

In and of its self, there is nothing wrong in keeping a tradition. Yet if someone, for whatever reason, does not keep that tradition it is not a sin. Though, if someone does not keep a **Law of G-d** that is a sin! However, if someone does not believe and/or declares that it is a sin to break a tradition; they are, in effect, adding to the **Laws of G-d!** And in doing so they are, whether they realize it or not, committing a sin!

Deuteronomy 13:1

(12:32 in most Christian Bibles)

“Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.”

את כל־הדבר אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם אתו תשמרו
לעשות לא־תסף עליו ולא תגרע ממנו

After the destruction of the Second Temple, there was an addition made to the Amidah, in that portion it now talks about, or refers to heretics.

Let there be no hope for informers, and may all **the heretics**
and all the wicked instantly perish,...

...ולמלשינים אל תהי תקוה, וכל המינים וכל הזדים כרגע יאבדו,

The obvious question is: Who are these (sectarian) heretics **המינים ?** Are they going to be the ones who obey or disobey **THE ALMIGHTY ?**

Joshua 1:7

“... be careful to do according to all the Law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.”

Proverbs 30:5-6

Every word of G-d is tested;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.
Do not add to His words
Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.