

1 Corinthians 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

Analysis

Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you—Paul begins with qualified commendation (contrast v. 17: "I praise you not"). The Greek παραδόσεις (paradoseis, ordinances/traditions) refers to authoritative apostolic teaching passed down orally and in writing. Paul uses technical rabbinic terminology: paredōka (I delivered, v. 23) and katechete (ye keep/hold fast). This isn't human tradition but apostolic tradition rooted in Christ's own words and actions.

The commendation is strategic—Paul will immediately correct their practice of these traditions regarding head coverings (vv. 3-16) and the Lord's Supper (vv. 17-34). The Corinthians remembered his teaching intellectually but applied it badly, revealing their underlying problems: gender confusion in worship and class divisions at the Table. Orthodoxy without orthopraxy is deficient discipleship.

Historical Context

In first-century culture, apostolic tradition carried authority before the New Testament canon was complete. Paul's oral and written teaching functioned as living tradition for early churches. The Corinthian church had received foundational instruction during Paul's 18-month founding visit (Acts 18), but false teachers and cultural pressures were distorting his message. This letter aims to re-establish apostolic authority and correct aberrant practices.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'traditions' or teachings have you received from Scripture and faithful teachers—and are you keeping them faithfully or selectively?
2. How can a church balance honoring historic Christian teaching while avoiding mere traditionalism?
3. Where might you be intellectually affirming biblical truth while practically denying it in your lifestyle?

Interlinear Text

Ἐπαινῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς ἀδελφοί ὅτι πάντα μου μέμνησθε
I praise **Now** **you** **brethren** **that** **in all things** **me** **ye remember**
G1867 G1161 G5209 G80 G3754 G3956 G3450 G3415

καὶ καθὼς παρέδωκα ὑμῖν τὰς παραδόσεις κατέχετε
and **as** **I delivered** **them to you** G3588 **the ordinances** **keep**
G2532 G2531 G3860 G5213 G3862 G2722

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (Parallel theme): Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

1 Corinthians 4:17 (Parallel theme): For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1 Corinthians 11:22 (Resurrection): What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

1 Corinthians 15:2 (Parallel theme): By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 11:17 (Resurrection): Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (Parallel theme): Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Luke 1:6 (Parallel theme): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

1 Thessalonians 3:6 (Parallel theme): But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you: