

EASTER TRADITIONS

I Corinthians 11:23-26

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INTRODUCTION

- A. A little girl noticed that every time her mother cooked a roast she chopped a piece off the end of the roast before putting it in the oven. Intrigued, she asked her mother why she did this.

"Well to be honest, I do it because that's the way my mother always does it" came the reply. "I'm sure she must have some good reason for it."

At the next family gathering, the child decided to satisfy her curiosity. "Grandma, why do you always chop the end off the roast before cooking it?"

"Well to be honest, I do it because that's the way my mother always does it" came the reply. "I'm sure she must have some good reason for it."

A week or so later the little girl was visiting her 90 year old great grandmother. She explained that mummy and grandma always chop the end off the roast before cooking it, but couldn't remember why. Did she know?

She replied, I cut the piece off because my pan was too small!"

- B. Traditions are also associated with most holidays.
1. Christmas.
 2. Thanksgiving.
 3. July 4th
 4. Even Easter

I. WHAT ARE SOME EASTER TRADITIONS AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

- A. Some Easter traditions include...
1. The word "Easter" comes from the Anglo-Saxon pagan celebration honoring their goddess of springtime, "Eastre".
 2. Before A.D. 325, Easter was celebrated on different days of the week. However, at the Council of Nicaea, convened by the Christian Roman Emperor Constantine, it was set on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.
 3. The Easter bunny was a cover-over from the Eastre celebration.
 4. Easter eggs predate our Christian Easter and symbolize the rebirth of springtime. Rich people wrapped them in gold leaf while poor people dyed them different colors. The best ones are chocolate.
- B. Can you think of other Easter traditions?

II. ARE EASTER TRADITIONS WRONG?

- A. They can be wrong if we don't see beyond the tradition to the reality of the experience they represent. (i.e. Exchanging Christmas gifts, etc, without celebrating the birth of our Lord).
- B. Even Jesus started a Tradition, so they don't have to be wrong-I Corinthians 11:23-26).
- C. What are some guidelines we can follow to be sure traditions enhance rather than detract from Easter?
1. It helps to know their history, where they come from and what they mean or even meant to others.
 2. Look beyond the tradition to what it represents.
 3. Explain to the next generation what they mean so they will know why we cut the end of the ham off!
 4. Don't be afraid to start new traditions that may help you celebrate Easter.

CONCLUSION

- A. Tradition is not a four letter word.
- B. It can help us mark some significant events in the Christian faith.
- C. Be sure to look beyond the tradition to the reality of what we celebrate-the resurrection of our Lord!