**Rejecting God to Honor Man**

**Sermon Based Discussion (June 1, 2017)**

**The Gospel of Mark**

**WARM UP**

1. What is a rule or policy you’ve encountered (at your neighborhood, work, school, etc.) which seems to you like a silly or bad rule? Why did this rule get implemented in the first place, do you think?

*Maybe you’ve encountered a rule or policy which was intended to help people, but over time, people began to enforce those rules to the exclusion of the original intent of those laws. This can happen when people put man’s tradition over against God’s eternal commands.*

*In this session we consider Jesus’ teaching about how we must keep God’s law above any and all of human traditions.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Mark 7:1-13)**

1. Why did the Pharisees and scribes ask Jesus their question? What seemed to be their motives or goals?

1. What did Jesus think of their question and how did he answer it?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. How can holding to traditions of man become a form of hypocrisy?
2. Does this passage teach that all traditions are bad? If not, how can we tell when keeping tradition has gone wrong?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. When it comes down to it, what is more important to Jesus— keeping man’s tradition or obeying God’s commands? Do you agree or disagree with Jesus’ view and why do you believe so?
2. Are there practices or traditions of our culture or even religion which seem to conflict with God’s commands? How have you navigated such situations in the past?

**APPLICATION**

1. What traditions have you held do which Jesus may want you to reconsider in light of God’s commands in the Bible? What will you do about this?
2. How does keeping God’s commands over man’s tradition help point non-Christians to Jesus in our daily lives?