



WEEK 3 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

Palm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.”

**A healthy church is _____ around a single _____
guide: God’s Word**

2 Timothy 3:14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you,

2 Timothy 3:15-17 and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ J

esus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

We Submit to the _____ of the Bible over the _____ of men

Mark 7:1-5 The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him. ² They observed that some of his disciples were eating bread with unclean—that is, unwashed—hands. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, keeping the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they have washed. And there are many other customs they have received and keep, like the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders, instead of eating bread with ceremonially unclean hands?”

Mark 7:6-8 He answered them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines human commands. ⁸ Abandoning the command of God, you hold on to human tradition.”

Mark 7:9 He also said to them, “You have a fine way of invalidating God’s command in order to set up your tradition!”

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday’s sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. The sermon began with the race to the South Pole, where sincere, brave people were hurt by following a mix of methods instead of one proven guide. Where have you seen someone, in life or in church, work hard and mean well but end up off course because they lacked a trustworthy standard?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Paul tells Timothy to “*continue in what you have learned*” and then points him to Scripture, not tradition. Why do you think Paul didn’t stop at verse 14? What do verses 16-17 say Scripture is for, and how does that shape the way we should treat it compared to our own preferences or experiences?
4. Read Mark 7:1-9. The Pharisees didn’t accuse the disciples of breaking God’s Law, but of breaking a tradition. What made the hand-washing custom so easy to elevate to the level of a command? Jesus says they were “invalidating God’s command in order to set up your tradition.” What does that look like in a modern church?
5. The sermon mentioned things like music style, Bible translation, the number of weekly gatherings, facilities, and church clothes as “*good and wise things*” that aren’t “*God things*.” Which traditions or preferences have you been most tempted to treat as essential? How can we tell whether something is a biblical command or a personal or cultural preference?
6. The sermon said that without one standard, people teach what they think is right, rebuke what they disagree with, and train others to conform to their ways, which leads to chaos instead of unity. Have you ever experienced or witnessed this in a church or group? What was the effect on relationships, and on the church’s ability to share the gospel?