

First, Deceptive Traditions (8)

- 1) Paul's Concern Thru Out == **Preeminence of XP** → **Christ Above All** → **His Supremacy In All Things**
 - a) Or As Reformers Expressed It → **1 Of 5 Solas** == **Sola Christus** == **Only Christ**
 - b) If You Have Jesus Christ == Have Everything == One Of Wealthiest Human Beings In Universe
 - c) God == **Jealous** → **In Best Sense of Word** == **Fullness of Gift Given In Jesus** == **Not Obscured**
- 2) **(8)** See To It == Beware—Be On Guard == Against Danger == Led Away Captive
 - a) **Taking Captive** == **Capture & Carry Off** → **Not Physically** == **Means Lose Sight Our Fullness In Xp**
 - b) To Lose **Experience** of **Fullness & Sufficiency of Xp** == Bec/ Become **Obscured By Other Things**
- 3) But What Could Lead Our **Minds & Hearts** Away From Pure Faith & Experience of Xp...?
- 4) **(8)** **Philosophy** & **Empty Deceit**—According To **Human Tradition**—**Elemental Spirits of World**
 - a) **Philosophy** == Phileo Sophia == **Love of Wisdom** == **Connotes Any Elaborate System of Thought**
 - i) **Paul's Concern** == **Ways Of Thinking Found Way Into Church** → See Some of **(16 & 18 & 21)**
 - ii) **Gnosticism—Essenism—Judaisers** == **Mixture of Xpianity Mysticism—Ceremonialism—Asceticism**
 - iii) **Friday 13th** == Live Under Superstition → Horoscopes → Legalism → Ceremonies &
 - b) **Empty Deceit** → **Things** == **Sound Good** → **Sound Spiritual** → **Even Super Spiritual** == **Not Biblical**
 - c) **Problem** == **According To Human Tradition** == **Rules—Thinking—Practices** == **Become Part of Church**
 - i) **Human Invention** == **No Foundation In Scripture** → **In Revelation** → **Not According To Xp**
 - ii) **(23)** Calls It == **Self-Made Religion** == **Personal & Ceremonial Practices** == **God Not Require**
 - d) **(8)** According To **Elemental Spirits of the World** == **Principalities—Authorities—Powers of Darkness**
 - i) **Demonic Influence** → **Ultimately Our Enemy** == **Loves Church Concerned @ All Wrong Things**
- 5) **Truth @ Jesus Like Ship Sitting In Water** == **Over Time** **Becomes Encrusted Barnacles & Ship Worms**
 - a) **Not Part of Ship** → **Over Time** == **Attached To Ship** → **Create Drag** == **Threaten Integrity of Ship**
 - b) All **Below Waterline** → **Not Aware of It** → **Feel Ship Slowing Down** == In End Can Sink Ship
- 6) **Beliefs—Ways of Thinking—Rules—Practices** == **Attached To Our Sense of Church & Xpianity**

- a) Stuff of Christian Culture == Becomes Part of Thinking & Feeling & Practice == Nothing To Do W/ Jesus
- b) Lose Ability To Discern Where Biblical Truth Ends == Where Feelings & Traditions of Men Begin
- 7) Reformation Happened → Bec/ Beliefs—Rules—Practices == Not In Bible == Taken Over Church Culture
- a) Reformers == Iconoclasts == Anyone Who Attacked Cherished—Traditional Beliefs & Practices
- i) Bec/ Believe Based On Error Or Superstition → Not In Bible → Have Nothing To Do W/ Jesus
- b) Church Coming Out Middle Ages == Become So Encrusted W/ Rules—Practices—Beliefs
- c) Reformers Opposed Ways of Thinking—Ways of Worship == Not In Bible == Not According To Jesus
- 8) Jesus == Did Same → Constantly Challenging Current Church's Ways of Thinking—Worship—Rules
- a) Mark 7:5-7—*"The Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*
- 9) Here == Place To Say == Tradition Can Be Fine Thing == Way Always Done It == 2 Dangers W/ It
- a) When Way Always Done It == Starts Feeling Like God's Way of Doing It == Not In Bible
- b) Some Ways of Thinking—Practice Actually Compete W/ Fullness Of Jesus For Us
- 10) Meant To Find Satisfaction In Jesus Xp Alone → Against Anything Competes W/ Truth & Life In Him

Second, The Fullness of Christ (9-10)

- 1) (9) For—Bec/ Whole Fullness of Deity Dwells In Him → Not Divine Qualities → Very Essence of Deity
- a) Moule—Jesus Is *"the whole glorious total of what God is, the supreme Nature in its infinite entirety."*
- b) Jesus == God Incarnate → God Dwelling Bodily → Become a Man = For Us & For Our Salvation
- 2) (10) You Been Filled In Him → You Who Are "In Christ" Thru Faith == Filled == Share In His Fullness
- a) (NIV) you have been brought to fullness → (KJV) You are complete in Him
- b) Everything That God Is == Jesus Christ Is → Given To Us == (18) Head of His Body Church ==

- c) Calvin—“there are in him resources from which we may be filled, that nothing be wanting in us.”
- d) We Will Be Satisfied
- 3) Possess Fullness of Salvation → Not == Jesus Did What Could → Now We == Do Rest → Jesus Paid All
- a) God Sees Us In Christ → **Fully**—100% Rteous W/ His Rtness == Need No Other == Cannot Add To
- b) 1 Cor 1:30—“Because of him you are **in Christ** Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption” → These Are Present Possessions == **In Xp**
- c) God’s Justice Is Satisfied In Xp → So We == Satisfied To Be In Xp == At Rest—Peace—No Fear
- 4) Possess Fullness of Blessing → Christ Is All We Need → In Christ All Our Needs Are Met
- a) Eph. 1:3—“Blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” → How Many?
- b) Ps. 23:5—“You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” → We Are Filled == Overflowing Cups
- c) Rom. 8:32—“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”
- d) Phil. 4:19—“My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
- 5) Possess Fullness Of His Love & Presence == God Is the Gospel == Bec/ God Ult. Gives Himself To Us
- a) Exod. 6:7—“I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God” == I Will Be Yours—You Mine!
- b) Relational—Covenantal Giving → Like Husband Gives Self To Wife in Covenantal Relat? →
- c) 1 Cor. 3:23—“You are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” → & Christ Is In You == Hope of Glory
- d) Nicholson—“Whoever has Christ has God. Whoever desires to add something of his own to Christ, desires more than God. Therefore, whatever is not according to Christ is an empty deceit.”

Finally, Living In His Fullness

- 1) Remember Paul Addressing Ways of Thinking → Infiltrated Church == Only **Been Around** 30 Years
- a) Jesus Dealt W/ It → Paul & Apostles Dealt W/ It → **Reformers Dealt W/ It** == **Know** == We Will
- b) Hear **Pharisee’s Question** == **Why do disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders**

- c) In 500 Yrs. Since Reformation == Church Become Encrusted Ways of Thinking—Practices—Rules
- 2) Beware == See To It Not Taken Captive == Ways of Thinking—Practices—Rules == **Human Origin**
- a) **Careful Not Let Church Becomes @ Things** == Nothing To Do W/ Jesus == In Big Ways—Or Small
- b) Roommate In College → What Did You Think == Pews—Not Church == Biblical Sermon—Worship
- c) Careful Not To Care More @ Things Than Jesus Does == Rob Us True Worship In Spirit & Truth
- 3) Semper Reformanda → Always Reforming → Church Strive For Self-Awareness → Biblical Awareness
- a) Ships Pulled Out of Water → Dry-Dock → Encrustation Visible == Hard Work Scraping Off
- b) Brave—Difficult Work == Examining Everything In Light of Scripture == According To Christ
- 4) Missional Faith → Grounded In **Fullness As It Is In Xp** → Xp Alone == Gospel of Grace & Forgiveness
- a) Agile Faith → Can Enter Any Culture Context & Thrive == Church Not @ Trappings == @ Jesus Xp
- b) Able To Slip Cultural Practices On & Off Like An Old Garment ==
- 5) To Find Fullness In Christ → Not Look For Our Fullness Any Where Else → Xp Fill Hearts & Minds
- a) Find Our Satisfaction & Sufficiency In Person of Jesus Christ == Above All Things
- b) Salvation == Complete → Nothing Can Be Added → Every Blessing Ours In Him
- 6) What Concern Us More Than Anything Else == Fullness Of Spirit → Fruits of His Spirit → Seek Him
- a) His Love & Joy & Peace == Would Satisfy Deepest Longing of Souls == Patience—Kindness—Mercy
- b) Bend Our Powers == Heart—Soul—Mind—Strength To Know—Love—Worship & Be Filled By Him
- 7) W/ Wesley—Hearts Would Sing == "Thou O Christ, art all I want, More than all in Thee I find"
- a) When Everything Else Is Stripped Away == Is Christ All You Want == Satisfied In Him Alone?