

PRACTICE, PRACTICED, PRACTICES, PRACTICING, PRACTISE, PRACTISED

Abraham had a regular **practice** of giving water to strangers.

- **Genesis 18:4:** "Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree."

Abraham had a regular **practice** of washing the feet of strangers.

- **Genesis 18:4:** "Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:"

The men of Sodom had a regular **practice** of raping those who visited the city.

- **Genesis 19:5:** "And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them."

Abraham had a regular **practice** of rising up early in the morning to obey God.

- **Genesis 22:3:** "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him."

Isaac had a regular **practice** of going into the field in the

evening to meditate.

- **Genesis 24:63:** "And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming."

It seems it was a common **practice** in the ancient world for wives to give their maids to their husbands, in an attempt to have children through them (even though it made things worse, not better).

- **Genesis 30:3:** "And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her."

Jacob wanted his wives to think that God had taken Laban's cattle and given them to him. He apparently didn't want them to know that he was the one who took the cattle by his clever breeding **practices**.

- **Genesis 31:9:** "Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me."

It seems Judah had a regular **practice** of having sex with prostitutes.

- **Genesis 38:15-16:** "When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face. And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?"

Under the Mosaic Law, the Israelites weren't allowed to round the corners of their heads, or damage the corners of their beards. (It seems these were the pagan **practices** of idolaters.)

- **Leviticus 19:27:** "Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard."

Under the Mosaic Law, those who **practiced** witchcraft were to be executed.

- **Leviticus 20:27:** "A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them."

Under the Mosaic Law, the Israelites weren't allowed to copy the pagan mourning **practices** of those around them.

- **Deuteronomy 14:1:** "Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead."

In ancient times, groves of trees were used as places of pagan worship. However, the Israelites weren't allowed to copy that pagan **practice** when they worshiped God.

- **Deuteronomy 16:21:** "Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee."

Under the Mosaic Law, the king of Israel wasn't allowed to multiply wives to himself. (In **practice**, David's six wives was

accepted by God, but Solomon's hundreds of wives wasn't.)

- **Deuteronomy 17:14, 17:** "When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; ... Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."

The nations who lived in Canaan **practiced** child sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.) The Israelites weren't permitted to copy their wicked example.

- **Deuteronomy 18:10:** "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch."

Under the Mosaic Law, it was an abomination to the Lord for people to **practice** child sacrifice.

- **Deuteronomy 18:10, 12:** "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. ... For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee."

The nations that lived in Canaan listened to diviners (people who **practiced** divination). The Israelites weren't permitted to copy their wicked example.

- **Deuteronomy 18:14:** "For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do."

Joshua had a regular **practice** of not allowing dead bodies to hang on trees after sundown.

- **Joshua 10:26-27:** "And afterward Joshua smote them, and slew them, and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening. And it came to pass at the time of the going down of the sun, that Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day."

It seems Jephthah's daughter didn't think it was wrong for her father to kill her and offer her as a human sacrifice. Apparently that **practice** was commonly accepted by the Israelites in those days (which is horrifying).

- **Judges 11:36:** "And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon."

The Benjamites decided to go to war with all of the other tribes of Israel to defend their **practice** of raping people to death.

- **Judges 20:14:** "But the children of Benjamin gathered

themselves together out of the cities unto Gibeah, to go out to battle against the children of Israel."

In the days of Ruth, the **practice** at the time was that if the nearest kinsman refused to fulfill the duty that the Mosaic Law required him to do, he would take off his shoe and hand it to the person who did act as the redeemer. This was a public testimony of his lack of integrity (and was required by the Mosaic Law).

- **Ruth 4:7:** "Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to take people's children make them their personal servants. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:11:** "And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to have their own army of chariots. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:11:** "And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to take people's children and use them as their soldiers. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:12:** "And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to take people's children and force them to make weapons of war. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:12:** "And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to take people's children and use them to sow their seed or harvest their crops. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:12:** "And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to take people's children and use them as their own personal chefs. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:13:** "And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to take the best land away from people and give it to their servants. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:14:** "And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to tax people and give the money to others. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:15:** "And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants."
- **1 Samuel 8:17:** "He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants."

It wasn't standard **practice** for Israel's judges to take people's servants and animals away so they could work for them instead. (However, that was one of the ways their kings would oppress them.)

- **1 Samuel 8:16:** "And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work."

It was a regular **practice** for David to play his harp to Saul whenever God sent an evil spirit upon Saul.

- **1 Samuel 18:10:** "And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he

prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand."

David made a regular **practice** of sitting with Saul on each new moon and sharing a meal with him.

- **1 Samuel 20:5**: "And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even."

The witch in Endor knew that Saul had outlawed witchcraft in Israel, and that **practicing** it could put her life at risk.

- **1 Samuel 28:9**: "And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?"

In the days of Solomon, there was an abundance of sexual immorality among the Israelites. Prostitution was **practiced** openly, even though the Mosaic Law required it to be punished by death.

- **1 Kings 3:16**: "Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him."

The sodomites who were in the land of Judah during the reign of Rehoboam committed the same abominations that were **practiced** by the nations that God cast out of the promised

land when He gave it to the Israelites.

- **1 Kings 14:24:** "And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel."

In ancient times, it wasn't the **practice** of the king of Israel to kill those he took captive.

- **2 Kings 6:22:** "And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master."

The nations that lived in the promised land before God gave it to Israel **practiced** child sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.)

- **2 Kings 16:3:** "But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel."
- **2 Chronicles 28:3:** "Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel."

Hoshea didn't send a present to the king of Assyria. Although he had been sending one each year, he stopped that **practice** (because he was rebelling against the king of Assyria.) That went poorly for him.

- **2 Kings 17:4:** "And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison."

Burning incense in high places was a pagan **practice**.

- **2 Kings 17:11:** "And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger:"

The people of Israel and Judah **practiced** child sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.)

- **2 Kings 17:17:** "And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."

When pagan nations settled in Israel after the Israelites were exiled from the land, they **practiced** child sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.)

- **2 Kings 17:31:** "And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim."

Manasseh **practiced** child sacrifice. (He burned his children alive to worship idols.)

- **2 Kings 21:1, 6:** "Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. ... And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."
- **2 Chronicles 33:1, 6:** "Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: ... And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."

The Jews had been **practicing** child sacrifice. (They had been burning their children alive to worship idols.)

- **2 Kings 23:10:** "And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech."

Ahaz **practiced** child sacrifice. (He burned his children alive to worship idols.)

- **2 Kings 16:1, 3:** "In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. ... But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel."

- **2 Chronicles 28:1, 3:** "Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father: ... Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel."

The Jews had to purify themselves before they could celebrate the Passover. They had to separate themselves from the unclean and wicked **practices** of the pagans who lived around them.

- **Ezra 6:20-21:** "For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,"

The rulers and nobles were unable to defend themselves in front of the large assembly of people that Nehemiah had gathered. They didn't try to defend their wicked **practice** of enslaving their fellow Jews and selling them to pagans.

- **Nehemiah 5:7-8:** "Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them. And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your

brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer."

David prayed that God wouldn't incline his heart to **practice** any evil works.

- **Psalm 141:4:** "Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties."

It's wrong to gain wealth through wicked **practices**.

- **Proverbs 28:8:** "He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor."

At the high places of Tophet, the Jews of Jeremiah's day **practiced** child sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.)

- **Jeremiah 7:31:** "And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart."

God said that no one was going to shave their head for the Jews who were going to die in the coming judgment. (This was a common mourning **practice** in the ancient world that was forbidden under the Mosaic Law.) In other words, a lot of people were going to die and no one was going to mourn their deaths.

- **Jeremiah 16:6:** "Both the great and the small shall die in

this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:"

It was a common **practice** in the ancient world for people to console those who lost their children. (However, the coming judgment was going to be so awful that no one was going to mourn the dead.)

- **Jeremiah 16:7:** "Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother."

God addressed the mountains of Judah (where the Jews had **practiced** idolatry).

- **Jeremiah 17:3:** "O my mountain in the field, I will give thy substance and all thy treasures to the spoil, and thy high places for sin, throughout all thy borders."

During the days of Jeremiah, the Jews **practiced** child sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.)

- **Jeremiah 19:5:** "They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind:"
- **Jeremiah 32:35:** "And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this

abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

God didn't command the Jews to **practice** child sacrifice. (In fact, He said it never entered into His mind.)

- **Jeremiah 32:35:** "And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

The **practice** of child sacrifice is an abomination in God's sight.

- **Jeremiah 32:35:** "And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

In ancient times, when a king died it was a standard **practice** to lament his death.

- **Jeremiah 34:5:** "But thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn odours for thee; and they will lament thee, saying, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD."

The 80 men who came from Mizpah after Ishmael murdered

Gedaliah had cut themselves. (This was a mourning **practice** that was forbidden by the Mosaic Law.)

- **Jeremiah 41:5:** "That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD."

When God spoke against the Philistines, He asked how long they would cut themselves. (This was a mourning **practice** that was forbidden by the Mosaic Law.)

- **Jeremiah 47:5:** "Baldness is come upon Gaza; Ashkelon is cut off with the remnant of their valley: how long wilt thou cut thyself?"

God said that in the judgment that was coming against Moab, there would be cuttings on all hands. (This was a mourning **practice** that was forbidden by the Mosaic Law.)

- **Jeremiah 48:37:** "For every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth."

In the days of Ezekiel, the elders of Israel **practiced** child sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.)

- **Ezekiel 20:31:** "For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you."

Idolatry pollutes those who **practice** it.

- **Ezekiel 20:31:** "For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you."

In the days of Ezekiel, the Jews **practiced** human sacrifice. (They burned their children alive to worship idols.)

- **Ezekiel 16:20:** "Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter,"
- **Ezekiel 23:37:** "That they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them."

It was a regular **practice** for eunuchs to be given a new name once they entered Nebuchadnezzar's service.

- **Daniel 1:7:** "Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego."

God pronounces woe upon those who plan or **practice** evil.

- **Micah 2:1:** "Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work

evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand."

We must not copy the prayer **practices** of the pagans.

- **Matthew 6:7-8:** "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

When Jesus cast a demon out of someone who couldn't speak, the people were amazed. (This is because the regular **practice** of the time was to find out the demon's name and command him to leave. However, if the person couldn't speak then there was no way to learn the demon's name. People thought it was impossible to cast out demons in those cases.)

- **Matthew 12:22-23:** "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?"

When the scribes and Pharisees told Jesus that His disciples weren't following the tradition of the elders, Jesus didn't say it was a good **practice** to wash your hands before you eat. Instead He rebuked them for their sin.

- **Matthew 15:2-3:** "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of

God by your tradition?"

It was the standard **practice** for Jews to bring their firstborn to the temple, and offer a sacrifice for them (which is what the Mosaic Law required).

- Luke 2:22: "And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;"

It seems that Joseph and Mary must not have spent very long living in Egypt, because they made a regular **practice** of going to Jerusalem each year to celebrate the Passover.

- **Luke 2:41:** "Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover."

It's a good **practice** to pray alone.

- **Luke 5:16:** "And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed."

In the parable of the rich man, he wasn't able to put his plans into **practice**. Instead of building bigger barns and living a life of ease for many years, he died.

- **Luke 12:19-20:** "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

In ancient times, it was the regular **practice** for soldiers to carry out crucifixions.

- **John 19:23:** "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout."

In ancient times, it was the regular **practice** for soldiers to take the garments of the people they crucified.

- **John 19:23:** "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout."

In ancient times, it was a regular **practice** for the Mosaic Law to be read in the synagogue on the sabbath.

- **Acts 15:21:** "For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day."

Paul made a regular **practice** of entering into the Jewish synagogue of the cities he visited and preaching the gospel to the Jews.

- **Acts 18:19:** "And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews."
- **Acts 19:8:** "And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God."

It was a regular **practice** for Romans to interrogate people by torturing them.

- **Acts 22:24:** "The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him."

It was a regular **practice** for people to bribe the governor.

- **Acts 24:26:** "He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him."

It was a regular **practice** that when a prisoner was sent to Caesar, a document was also sent which listed the charges against him.

- **Acts 25:27:** "For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him."

Paul considered it a good **practice** to quote Scripture in order to establish points, make arguments, and teach doctrines.

- **Romans 10:11:** "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

We must compare God's commandments to the things that we hear, so we can recognize and avoid sinful **practices**.

- **Romans 16:17:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them

which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

People who cause divisions by bringing sinful **practices** into the church are destructive and must be avoided.

- **Romans 16:17:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

If someone brings a sinful **practice** into the church, the person who must be avoided is the one who brought in the sinful practice, not those who are fighting against it.

- **Romans 16:17:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Those who bring sinful **practices** into the church are serving their own sinful desires.

- **Romans 16:17-18:** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

We must not be deceived by those who seek to spread sinful **practices**.

- **Romans 16:18:** "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and

fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

Paul condemned the Corinthian church for the way they **practiced** communion. (Instead of doing it in a holy way, they were actually getting drunk.)

- **1 Corinthians 11:17, 20-21:** "Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. ... When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken."

The gift of tongues must not be **practiced** alone. Instead there must be an interpreter who can explain what's being said.

- **1 Corinthians 14:5:** "I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying."

Christians must **practice** restraint.

- **Philippians 4:5:** "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

Paul commanded the church to **practice** the things they had received from him.

- **Philippians 4:9:** "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

The author of Hebrews said that it was a bad **practice** for Christians to stop meeting with fellow Christians.

- **Hebrews 10:25:** "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."