

our practices some sort of stability and continuity that resist the kind of change that is unsettling, arbitrary, impulsive, faddish, or a mere remedy for boredom with sameness?

- d. Can we justify the use of expediency (what seems best in the given circumstances) in working out details of applying general biblical principles of church worship, government, and discipline to the life of the local church?

If we can, are there good reasons for routinizing and standardizing these details into forms -- forms that can serve to regularize and provide a sound, well-reasoned basis for practices and procedures?

If we do routinize our procedures into forms and then invest those forms with authority, are we doing what the rabbis did in developing the oral law and codifying it in the Mishnah and using it as a basis for decisions regarding right and wrong conduct? In such a case, what guidance can we draw from our Lord's denunciations of the traditions of the elders, together with His warnings not to follow the example of the lawyers and rabbis?