

## Attitudes Toward That Which Is Old

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Christianity is over 2,000 years old. Parts of the Old Testament are 1,500 years older. The faith and worship of the Lord's Church had its beginnings in the first century and it has flourished ever since. As observe humanity, we note three distinct attitudes toward that which is old.

First, there are some people who love their here and now. Anything older than last year is obsolete and of little value. They constantly search for the latest gadgets and innovations. They put little or no value in or on things hoary with age. In fact, some resent those who went before them, whether in shaping our nation or in giving us our religious heritage.

Within religion, they poke fun at, denigrate and criticize our pioneers in the faith. They rebel against the thought of worshipping as the first Christians did, of singing the same hymns their parents sang. They resent hearing sermons that restate the old truths that our brethren have taught for the last 200 years. They yearn for that which is new and different. They refuse to allow the Bible to restrict their desires for modernity.

In their minds, brethren who insist on maintaining the teaching and practices of the Bible are not only burdensome, they are obstructionists who must be forced out of the way. Rather than submission to Christ, unconsciously they are addicted to that which satisfies their appetite for change. They like to talk about Jesus, but are not inclined to abide in his Word (John 15:7). They prefer to go onward rather than abide in the doctrine of Christ. They do not take seriously the warning, that those who do so have not God (2 John 9).

Secondly, some folks revere that which is older than them. They like antique furniture, vintage cars and old houses. They love history and the founding fathers of our nation. Among modern Christians, we find some who love the old paths of God (Jeremiah 6:16). They love the old stories of God's mighty work on behalf of his earth-bound people. They never tire of hearing the old, old story of Christ, his life, his love and his sacrifice. They hunger and thirst for the ancient faith and worship ordained by Christ and his chosen Apostles. They want a church that looks to the past for its direction (2 Timothy 1:13). They find it spiritually fulfilling to worship in the same manner as did the earliest saints. They are repulsed when someone tries to modernize their faith, their worship and their church. These disciples chose the old biblical ways over the newer fads of men because they are convinced that it was what God expected of them. They know full well that the words of Jesus will judge them in the last day (John 12:48), hence they devote themselves to studying the "old book of faith" and striving to obey it in all things.

Thirdly, there are some who have no real concern about such things. They feel a need to participate in the worship of the church. They certainly hope to spend their eternity in heaven but have no interest in such matters as looking to the Bible for their instruction and authority or embracing the latest fads of religion. They are much like the lukewarm Christians of Laodicea (Revelations 3:14-15).

So what is your attitude toward the Church, whose faith and worship are some 2,000 years old?