

Tradition vs. Traditionalism

Tradition enriches the past; traditionalism freezes it.	Tradition deals with uncertainty; traditionalism wants to be dead sure. (And so it is: sure and dead.)
Tradition develops the past; traditionalism embalms it.	Tradition welcomes adventure; traditionalism never leaves the house.
Tradition contributes and stimulates; traditionalism confines and stifles.	Tradition promises excitement; traditionalism is rather dull.
Tradition is bold and daring; traditionalism is fearful and cautious.	Tradition gazes back in order to go forward; traditionalism looks back and stays there.
Tradition is creative; traditionalism is unimaginative.	When you are involved, therefore, in a community's dynamism, you are advancing a tradition.
Tradition transforms the past; traditionalism just passes it along.	If you stand aloof, however, from its vital flow, you are guilty of traditionalism.
Tradition brings the past into the future; traditionalism leaves it alone.	
Tradition reckons with the unknown; traditionalism merely repeats the known.	© Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski August 23, 1988 Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com www.fatherwaltersparish.org