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## **‘That’s the Way It’s Always Been Done’**

A new bride was wanting to impress her husband with a dinner of baked ham and all the trimmings. Not wanting to make any mistakes, she decided to fix it the way her mother always did it.

She began by taking the ham out of the package and cutting a little off each end before placing it in the pan. Her husband, who was watching, inquired, “Why did you do that?” Her reply was “I don’t know. That’s the way mom always did it.”

Some days later she had the opportunity to ask her mother why she always cut a little off each end of the ham before cooking it. Her reply?

“Well,” her mother said, “I never had a pan large enough to cook a whole ham, so I had to cut a little off each end to make it fit.”

### **THE MORAL OF THE STORY**

“That’s the way we’ve always done it” may not be a valid rationale to continue doing it. The reason for doing it a certain way may no longer exist. A new way may or may not be better than the old way, but to hang on to the old way “just because we’ve always done it that way” may not be best.

On the other hand, to demand change just for the sake of change is not best either. The scriptural way (old or new) that works best for the church at the time should be the basis for deciding how it’s to be done.

**What is “old” is not necessarily inferior;  
What is “new” is not necessarily superior.**

*Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants,  
but in your thinking be mature ...*

*But all things must be done properly and  
in an orderly manner.*

1 Corinthians 14:20, 40

Quotations from NASB

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