

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Change**

"Nothing that is can pause or stay." – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Change the changeable, accept the unchangeable, and remove yourself from the unacceptable."  
– Denis Waitley

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." – Leo Tolstoy

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something." – Woodrow Wilson

"Change is inevitable. Change for the better is a full-time job." – Adlai E. Stevenson

To some folks, *change* is a dirty word. They hate change of any kind. If they had their way, nothing would ever change.

Now granted, there are times that change is not acceptable. When it comes to a "thus saith the Lord," man does not have the authorization to change it. In matters of doctrine, the church has to abide with the will of God. Even Jesus noted that when He said, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9). And the apostle John warned, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9).

However, when discussing matters of opinion, change is not a problem. But even then, we should not be so rigid that everything must be done our way. It should not be our intent to practice "Burger King" religion. In fact, Paul says, "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

Those who oppose change of any kind would do well to realize that one cannot become a Christian without change. Paul even says that we must be "transformed" (Rom. 12:2). The caterpillar becomes the beautiful butterfly through the process of change. So too, when we become Christians, we leave the old sinful world behind to put on the new man "which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:24).

It is because of a refusal to change and adapt that our methods of evangelism today are sorely lacking. What worked in leading to the conversion of lost souls in the 1960s needs to be changed and modified. We have the power point, internet, television, and radio, as well as what can be provided in print. Jesus tells us that we need to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). Only when we learn to change our approach can we truly reach lost souls.

Notice the emphasis on the approach, and not on changing God's message! (cf. Rom. 1:16).