

Nobody Likes Change

Mark Twain often receives credit for saying, “The only person who likes change is a baby in a wet diaper.” Personally, I’ve noticed that even the baby makes a lot of noise about the change. Change happens. You cannot avoid it, prevent it, dance around it or protect yourself from it.

That's the rub

Change may come more naturally to some personality types than it does to others but change is hard for all of us. The rub comes from the fact that we must change.

Be Transformed

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Reformation vs. Transformation

Here is the vital difference between being transformed and being reformed. Reformation usually has these three characteristics:

- (1) it comes from a voice on the outside;
- (2) it begins with a series of actions; and
- (3) it expects immediate results.

But transformation by God's Holy Spirit works in exactly the opposite way:

- (1) it comes from a voice on the inside;
- (2) it begins with a change deep in our souls; and
- (3) it patiently waits for the results to show.

Transformation is a miracle, but it is not magic. It doesn't happen in an instant. It isn't easy or fun to watch. It doesn't defy logic. Sins don't disappear appear overnight. And we don't pull new virtues out of thin air. If you have tried many times to be different but haven't changed, if you feel defeated by the same old sin, or if God feels more distant than before, take heart! Don't quit. God has not given up on you. Don't give up on yourself. Citation: Steve DeNeff; David Drury. SoulShift: The Measure of a Life Transformed (Kindle Locations 127-133). Kindle Edition.

Sermon in a Sentence:

If you want to follow Jesus then embrace change.

Why?

Why can't I keep things constant and steady? Why do I need to embrace change as a follower of Jesus? Why can't I stay the way I am?

Reason #1

You cannot CARRY YOUR CROSS without change.

When Jesus calls people to follow...

Luke 14:27 NLT

And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

Jesus expects more...

Luke 9:23-24 NIV

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

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If you want to follow Jesus then embrace #change and carry your cross daily.

Reason #2

You cannot LOVE without change.

Proof Positive that You're a Disciple

John 13:34-35 NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Share

If you want to follow Jesus then embrace #change and love the people he loves.

Reason #3

You cannot LEARN without change.

Jesus' Invitation & Promise

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

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If you want to follow Jesus then embrace #change and learn to live above the baggage of your past.

Reason #4

You cannot GROW without change.

And yet one more truth

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Share

If you want to follow Jesus then embrace #change and grow in becoming more like him in the ways you think and act.

A New Perspective

You may dislike change at the same level as most people. You may dislike change more than most. You may tolerate change better than most but you cannot follow Jesus and refuse to change at the same time. If you are Jesus' disciple, then change will come naturally as you cooperate with his Holy Spirit. If you want to follow Jesus then embrace change.

Now what?

In the quiet of this moment, what change is Jesus asking you to make? In what area of your life? What will the change look like in your everyday life? Who will help you make this change? What is the first step? When will you make it? Will you commit your life to being transformed as you follow Jesus?