

WHAT IS YOUR THEOLOGY OF CHANGE?

Do you see change as something to be embraced or avoided?

There was a time when I had an unhealthy view of change. I feared change. I viewed change as something like cancer.

You might have to deal with it in your life either personally or with a family member or friend, but you hoped and prayed you didn't have to. As a pastor, I didn't preach about change and only reacted to it when pressed into a corner, which is not very healthy or godly.

On the other hand, for as long as I can remember I think I have had a healthy view of stewardship. It was a deep, personal value instilled into me by my parents, key men (pastors, Sunday school teachers, laymen) and devotional Bible study. I have never hesitated to practice personal stewardship, preach or teach about stewardship (specifically, I am talking about tithing), or model stewardship to my church, family or friends.

The reasons for the difference in my reaction to two challenging topics (change and money) are because for one, I had not developed a biblical theology, and for the other I had.

What is your biblical conviction of change? Is change something to be avoided at all costs?

Consider the following scripture passages, statements and resources in building your theology of change:

- Galatians 2:20: "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."
- II Corinthians 3:17-18: "we . . . are being transformed into His likeness"
- II Corinthians 5:17: "the old has gone, the new has come!"
- Revelation 2:5: "Repent and do the things you did at first."

- God designed change into the world.
- Repentance equals change.
- Change is led by the Holy Spirit.
- Change is an event; transition is a process that takes time.
- Change brings resistance.

- "Renovation of the Heart" by Dallas Willard
- "Managing Transitions" by William Bridges
- "Change or Die" by Alan Deutschman

Change is all around us. You would think all the change around us would help us change in the church. But the truth is, the more things change around us the more we hold onto something that keeps us grounded. That something must be Jesus Christ and his Great Commission and not the building and programs we associate with doing church.

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