

Change - The Inevitability of It

The story is told that back in 1912, Ford Motor Co. had a production manager named William Knudsen - considered one of the best in his field. Knudsen became convinced that the Model T (which had been in production for 4 years now) had to be updated. But, the only problem was - Henry Ford loved his creation so much it was well known that he opposed changing anything about the car.

According to Robert Lacy (in his best selling biography, *Ford: The Man and the Machine*) Knudsen thought to convince Ford, by building an updated and impressive model to show what could be done with a few changes in color and design. The story goes that Ford had just returned from a European vacation, and he went to a Highland Park, Michigan garage and saw the new design created by Knudsen.

On-the-scene mechanics later revealed how Ford responded. They say that the car was a four door job, and the top was down, painted gleaming red and built on a new, low slung version of the Model T. One eyewitness tells how "Ford had his hands in his pockets, and he walked around that car 3 or 4 times... Finally, he got to the left hand side of the car, and he takes his hands out, gets hold of the door, and bang! He ripped the door right off!...

The witness continues, How the man done it, I don't know! He jumped in there, and bang goes the other door. Bang goes the windshield. He jumps over the back seat and starts pounding on the top. He rips the top with the heel of his shoe. He wrecked the car as much as he could." Well, Knudsen left Ford, for General Motors. Henry Ford, on the other hand, continued to nurse along the Model T, but design changes in competitors models made it more old-fashioned than he would admit. Competitive necessity finally backed him into making the Model A, but his heart was never in it.

Henry Ford was one of the most creative men of his age. And yet... Henry Ford - one of the great minds of his day - resisted the obvious need for change. It has been said this way and it applied to Henry Ford in this story, some people will change when they see the light. Others change only when they feel the heat.

Most people don't like change in their lives any more than he did. One man observed that the only people who DO like change are "wet babies" ... and even they aren't too excited about it. Churches are notorious for that kind of attitude as well. You'll find church boards and a lot of others within her walls, besides board members, saying those 7 famous last words "we've never done it that way before"

Someone once said that when it comes to change the church is often like the snail riding on the back of a turtle ...and do you know what a snail does when it rides on the back of the turtle?

It goes: "Whee!"

Many, and I would go so far as to say from my experience, **most** churches recoil at even the slightest change in their routine. They recoil and object. And they do that, even when they're fairly sure the changes would be something pleasing to God and possibly help outreach and growth, but they still resist.

So today I want to deal with the idea of change. Except for just a few things, change is a continuing sure thing but even how those things that are presented are changing. Lets begin with

I . Some basic laws of the universe

Law # 1 Man can't create or destroy energy.

Law # 2 The energy we have been given, is in a state of constant change For example, cars continue to rust, our bodies continue to break down, and the list goes on an on.

Therefore since God is the creator and He has created energy in such as way so that it can't be changed or added to, then I conclude in my thinking that we must deal with the idea of continual change in the energy we have been given to work with. I would further conclude that if it were not for sin we would not have to deal with this issue of change at all.

I am tempted to believe that in the setting of Eden, when things were perfect, God could have done any changing in Eden without any pain to the creatures if he had wanted to. But since sin entered the human race, man now has to deal with this energy issue and as we just noted, that causes pain because , if we don't like something, we can't get rid of it nor can we get more, therefore, we just have to change, as well as live with the change that is going on all around us in the energy we have. Right??

II. The inevitability of change

A. Like it or not, change happens.

Listen to this story I happened across: When the railroads were first introduced to the U.S., some folks feared that they'd be the downfall of the nation! Here's an excerpt from a letter to then President Jackson dated January 31, 1829: As you may

know, Mr. President, 'railroad' carriages are pulled at the enormous speed of 15 miles per hour by 'engines' which, in addition to endangering life and limb of passengers, roar and snort their way through the countryside, setting fire to crops, scaring the livestock and frightening women and children. The Almighty certainly never intended that people should travel at such breakneck speed.

Signed: Martin Van Buren Governor of New York

B. Fight it or not, change happens

C. Embrace change and it will be less painful and stressful, and more exciting as it happens

III. Where change actually begins and ends

A. In the physical life,

It begins at conception as new cells begin to multiply and ends after death, because even after death the body continues to change back into dust.

B. Concerning the mental and spiritual aspects,

It begins w/in each of us. Each person has to change their mental and spiritual activities or thoughts from their heart or mind and that is from w/in themselves.

Did you read about the Chinese monk and the pizza shop? Monks are known for their deep meditation and lengthy thinking processes as they ponder the great mysteries of life. Well this monk walked into a pizza parlor and saw a sign \$ 5.99 special, everything included. So he said to the owner "make me one with everything on it". When he got his order, he gave the owner of the pizza parlor a \$20.00 bill, which the guy pocketed. "Hey" said the monk, "where's my change?" "Change" replied the owner most profoundly "must come from within." I am sure that gave the Monk something more to think about.

IV. Things that change

A. **Jobs change**

It used to be that you could go to a company and stay for a whole career. Not so today. I read where the average number of jobs an American worker has held by age 40 is (8)

B. **Friends change**

If you don't believe that just hang around any school for a little while and you will see it for yourself. One day you are part of the crowd, next day you aren't.

C. Technology changes

Who of our grandparents would have ever believed that we would have cell phones, computers, PowerPoint and so many other technology devices. And change, even in these, is so fast that they are practically outdated by the time they hit the market. As someone said in just that short time someone has developed a better mouse trap.

D. Music changes

There was the Big Band Era, then the rock of the 50s and 60s which is my era, then modern rock, and then Heavy Metal, and now Rap. How many here have been through some changes in your music lives

E. Plans change:

It is this area that I have had to be the most flexible. I can't begin to tell you the times I have had to change plans because, as a servant, I have had to try and fit into someone else's change of plans. I am grateful that the Lord has helped me accept change quite easily, yet it also makes me a bit sarcastic as I listen to those who hate change.

F. Sports is also in a state of perpetual change.

More change from good sportsman, to win at any cost. Change from after school, to after school, weekends, special camps, and on and on it goes. Constant change in expectations of winning, talents, of who should be playing, etc.

G. Churches change.

Personnel change, some leave churches because they are miffed about something. Others because they are moving on to other ministries, and still others because we can't meet their need for growth for where they are in their spiritual journey. Church music changes, church programs change. Change is all around us.

The problem with churches is, that they are generally the last to change and because of that sad trend, they are often found wringing their hands about the state of the world and society. Churches have lost much of the saltiness that could have influenced

generations simply because they refuse to keep up with the times and presentation abilities, while still not compromising their message in the process.

V. Things that they themselves never change, but how they are communicated does change

A. God never changes

I Samuel 15:29 *"And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."*

Malachi 3:6a *"For I, the LORD, do not change;*

B. God's word never changes

Psalms 119:89 *Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.*

C. Sin never changes

It is always our enemy, it is always enticing us, it is always bent on our destruction

D. God's hatred of sin never changes

He cannot look on it because He knows what it cost him. The life of His only Son, Jesus

E. God's love for us never changes

Jeremiah 31:3 speaking to Israel and to the Gentiles that have been grafted in God says, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; Where would we be if God's love for us ever changed? Lost, Lost, Lost, forever Lost*

F. Sins penalty never changes which is death, but neither does salvation's plan which is life.

Salvation always has been and always will be BY AND THRU THE SHED BLOOD OF CHRIST

G. God's ability to help us in time of need never changes

I Peter 5:7 says *casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.*

Why?? Because of what Psalm 46:1 reminds us, *God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.*

H. The need for church unity never changes

Psalm 133:1 says *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!*

In a world that is becoming increasingly fractured, there is a never changing need for the church to present a stable and unified body of believers.

Ephesians 4:11-13 *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to **the unity** of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

I. The need for church growth is one that never changes

A study in Acts 2 will show that church growth is deep in the heart of God and is expected by Him.

J. The need for prayer never changes

The Lord never said my house shall be called a house of fellowship or teaching or preaching, but he did say, Isaiah 56:7. *for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*" The prayer closets of God's people are where the roots of the church grow.

K. The need of a whole body ministry and involvement is something that never changes

Even a casual look at I Corinthians 12, and any person who has eyes would see the concept of a church body with every person involved in some way. Someone observed that if there were as many idle parts in an automobile as there in the church, the automobile couldn't run downhill

Well as we close, we see that change is something that we need to deal with, painful as it may be, because it is the one inevitability there is in life besides death and taxes. But for now lets remember

Like it or not, change happens

Fight it or not, change happens

Embrace change and it will be less painful and stressful, and more exciting as it happens

How about you Christian, do you fight God when it comes to change, or do you see great potential in change as a way to present the gospel to more folks?

How about you my friend, Have you been changed from death to life? If you haven't and would like to be changes so you can go to heaven and see the one who never changes in His love for us, all you need to do is read these next few lines and realize and do what they say so that in moment of time you can be changed.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)