

The Book of Acts - 11.1-18
TRY NOT TO BE THREATENED BY CHANGE
Dr. Larry Lamb – September 22, 2019

If you do anything of value, you will have critics.

- ⇒ Leading change is *never easy* but on the other hand, cleaning up a mess because of avoiding change is not easy.
- ⇒ The message of Jesus *never changes*, but methods change all the time.
- ⇒ Remember this fact: Bad news always spreads faster than good news.

Acts 11.1-4 *Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the Word of God. ² But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him. ³ “You entered the home of Gentiles and even ate with them!” they said. ⁴ Then Peter told them exactly what had happened.*

How can we know that change is legitimate for a church community?

First, any implemented change should never **CONTRADICT** the Word of God.

Second, whenever there is growth change is **INEVITABLE** .

Acts 11.18 *When the others heard this, they stopped objecting and began praising God. They said, “We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life.”*

- Repenting doesn’t restrict fun; it produces joy.
- Repentance literally means “a change of mind.”
- Repentance is turning from sin to trust Christ alone for salvation.

Confidence is that feeling you have just before you fully understand the whole situation.

Three statements about change.

1. Have the **MATURITY** and wisdom to accept that change will happen with or without our approval.

It's not a sin to change with the culture as long as the Truth of Scripture is not compromised. *STYLES AND METHODS CHANGE; SCRIPTURE DOESN'T.*

2. Be mature, wise, and **COURAGEOUS** to NOT compromise your values, morals, and integrity for the sake of change or what's trendy.

Wise vs. Unwise

3. When we **GROW** we will change.

Be leery of the Christian who gives the impression that they have reached the pinnacle of maturity and learning, and they're bewildered why you don't know what they know.

"For some reason, we perpetually think the most recent spiritual lesson we learned was the last leg of our spiritual journey – not consciously, only when someone proposes an uncomfortable change. Then we dig our heels in: "I finally have a firm grasp on how things should be." Then we become rigid and resistant instead of adaptable and accommodating. Consequently, we'll use any means necessary to justify keeping things the way they are."

CHUCK SWINDOLL

As Jesus was putting His team together that would eventually transform the entire world, He called them together and said this:

Mark 1.16-18 *One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁷ Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow Me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" ¹⁸ And they left their nets at once and followed Him.*

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I find myself being drawn to You. I want You to be my Savior and Lord. I confess that my sin has separated me from You. Forgive me and cleanse me from sin. I ask You to live through me each day as I humble myself before You. Amen.