



Recently it was mentioned that I love change! That's not exactly true but pretty close. I do struggle with change but my attitude is that change is good for me no matter how difficult it may be. I say to myself "change is good! This is hard but I can adjust!"

September is full of changes and I love most of them!

When our kids were school age summers off were relaxed and our routine was too. I always looked forward to the beginning of school, with the getting everyone up at a certain time and off to school and work.

The weather changes too! This summer has been pretty warm and very dry but September hit and the temperature dropped and showers moved in. A person who recently moved to Western Washington commented on how gloomy it has gotten 'in September' and I laughed thinking "wait until November through March".

Not all change is good and that is the problem. How do we distinguish between positive changes and negative changes? Some folks use James 1:17 and other verses to argue that God never changes therefore nothing I know about church should change. In Jesus' time the religious leaders and their followers resisted the changes God had planned for their benefit. Jesus confronts the leaders for missing the opportunity to change when they saw the common sinners repenting and following John's teaching. Matthew 21:32 *For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes*

*believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.* ESV.

We who embrace the NEW Testament sometimes get stuck trying to make the way we did things at church, in the past, as the only right way for today. I believe the Bible is inspired and the message must not change but how we share it with people can change dramatically as generations change. As an example, I can clearly remember when Cliff Burrows introduced 'praise music' in the late 1960s. Many people thought it ungodly and sinful. I was young and thought it was great! Today people still are intolerant of things being different. Not too long ago I had a conversation with a young person who emphatically stated she would never attend her parents church. I asked why and was shocked at her answer! She said "because they sing hymns!" She said it with disgust in her voice so I guess even some younger adults can be inflexible.

So the bottom line, from my perspective, is keep your eyes of Jesus and adapt as best you can. Always remembering that we are to love God foremost and people as we love ourselves. Mark 12:30-31.

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