

“Change: Part Two”

Rev. 22:19; Deut. 4:2; 12:32

Corey Barnette

Introduction

- I. Change is generally considered both a good thing and an inevitable thing.
- II. Not all change is good, nor should it be considered as a matter of fact.
- III. There are some current changes being made in the church of Christ that are not pleasing to God.

Discussion

- I. There is a trend to get away from preaching the Scriptures that are seemingly no longer pleasant to some individuals (2 Tim. 4:1-4; Gal. 1:6-9; Jas. 1:18, 21; 1 Pet. 1:22-23).
 - A. In some places, preaching has been replaced with dramatic plays and secular storytelling.
 - B. There seem to be more and more pushing “the social gospel” instead of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- II. Another “change” that hurts the church of Christ is when an eldership tries to have the oversight of more than it's local congregation.
 - A. It is plain that each congregation of the Lord's church is to be autonomous/“self-governing” (1 Pet. 5:1-3; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:28).
 - B. An eldership that is trying to oversee more than one congregation is akin to the Roman Catholic Church.
 1. Catholicism allows for a single “Bishop” to preside over more than one congregation.
 2. Except for the differences in singularity and plurality, what is the difference?
- III. Some congregations have decided that it is now acceptable for women to serve in leadership positions within the church.
 - A. It has always been that God wants structure (1 Cor. 14:40).
 - B. When God created, it was woman who was made from man (Gen. 2:21-23).
 1. In marriage, it is the husband that is to have authority over the wife (Eph. 5:22-24).
 2. In worship and congregational authority, God has again instructed that men are to be in positions of leadership (1 Tim. 2:7-15; 1 Tim. 3:1-5, 10-11).
 - C. The fact that God is no respecter of persons when it comes to salvation, does not mean that He allows for blatant disregard of His Divine instructions and structure (Gal. 3:26-29).

Conclusion

- I. Change is not always good!
- II. We must continue to teach that God's ways are still the best ways (Isa. 55:8-9; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
- III. These are just a few of the "changes" that man has sought to implement contrary to the will of God
- IV. We will continue to study more "change," Lord willing, in the next sermon in this series.