

Why We Need to Change, “A Call to Become Bigger”

Change is a difficult, the idea itself is provocative and challenges us to reflect on who we are, where we have been, as well as why we think and behave the way we do. Learning to love you and others enough to do the hard work of becoming demands of us an intentional mindset. God allows life events and human interaction to reveal to us what lives on the inside of our hearts and spirits. Bumping up against one another reveals the condition of our hearts and provokes us to change. When we are unwilling to change it prevents the love of God from living and thriving within us. When we refuse to see ourselves as God does and resist the Word and God’s call to be transformed, we cheapen our love experience and impoverish the love language of God in us to our world. We need to change our mindset toward understanding what God’s love really looks and feels like. To do this, we must embrace behaviors of change that demonstrate true love and self-reflection.

Deciding to love and live like God will challenge us to the core of our belief system. We will discover the roots of why we feel and believe like we do and in conjunction with this discovery be provoked of the Holy Spirit to change. True self-reform or change is essential to personal growth and spiritual maturity. Yes, we will need to seek the face and heart of God for refining our hearts and the behaviors that proceed from it in order to reveal God in us to our world. We need to change because living out of the love of God provokes us to grow our love into an active authentic expression of why Jesus came and what the power of his resurrection really meant for all, and not just for those we are familiar with and love, but for all who dare to receive the power of his cross. Change is hard because at the very core of it is self-sacrifice, a willingness to evolve into something more than our normal routines and experiences. What is beautiful about change is it always produces something different and explorative for broadening us as human beings.

This attitude of change may reveal that we need to throw out the old way of thinking because we may discover that we have been shaped by traditions, systems, and mindsets that war against the love of God. This is challenging because it demands self-discipline and self-sacrifice. It may even require we give up some long-loved privileges that impede the true love of God flowing within our hearts. Learning to love God enough to change is a decision. It is an intentional wrestling with self to become bigger and to enjoy the freedom to love without partiality, but a deliberate choice to live out of the pleasure of God’s love. The evolution of self is necessary to demonstrate God’s love, care and grace toward ourselves and others. I guess, the real question is for each of us is, are we willing to sacrifice what is comfortable and familiar to become a love gesture of God to influence the unfamiliar culture we may have disregarded in the past. This mindset is refreshing and empowering for expanding and experience a deepened and broader love that surpass cultural boundaries, as well as to afford ourselves the joy of knowing what God meant about “one”.

Doing the inner work of transformation of self of itself is the lifework we are called to as Christians. These times of upheaval of old norms are absolutely used of God to challenge our identity with him and for revealing the hidden works of the flesh that require change and self-growth. Will you do the work in you necessary to become like God and to share the love of God that is needed so desperately in our nation and world? Souls are crying out for what is genuine and real and for a people who are really living in demonstration of a love that is healing and restorative to humanity. Will you be a vessel yielded to change and to becoming more in God? Each one is to reach one and teach one. *“One can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.” —Abraham Maslow*