

# SKYVIEW CHURCH

WHERE CHRISTIANS MEET

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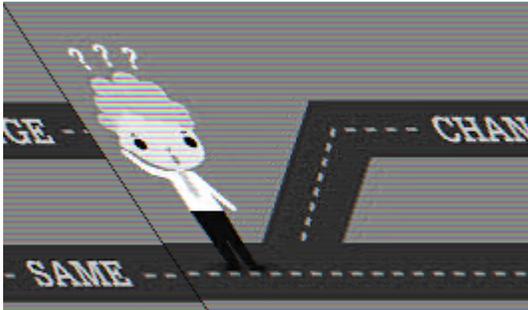
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Last week we considered why people often resist change in the church. To bring about change in the church involves patience, gentleness and sensitive leadership. People respond to change differently, depending on their personality, their background and present circumstances. How each person might respond has both its strengths and weaknesses. There are those who simply are opposed to any change. This status quo is satisfactory to them. People respond to change in the church in four basic ways.

- 1. Some people see change as a friend to be embraced.** There will always be some who are open and ready to change. In churches, it may be younger members who have no attachments and ownership to the past. It may also be older members who are dissatisfied with the present. There are also some visionaries and can see beyond the present. These members usually represent a small minority in the congregation. They are the ones who say, "We need to do this differently."
- 2. Some see change as a companion to be selected with care.** Many are open to change but will not immediately embrace change. These are people who will accept changes but will never initiate a change. They are not opposed to change as long as they can see the benefits of the change. These are usually those who have been members of the congregation the longest and have some feeling of ownership in the past. These are the ones who say, "That is a great idea....BUT....!"
- 3. Some see change as a stranger to be accepted with caution.** These are members who will finally accept change but only after much resistance. These are the ones who object by saying, "We've never done this before..." or "Where will this change lead...?" The biggest fear they have is a fear of the unknown. They are not eager to give the change a chance to work.
- 4. Some see change as an enemy to resist.** There are always those who will be opposed to any change for any reason. Even if the majority of the members of the congregation see a need to change and feel that a change will be good, there will be that handful of people who will be opposed. These few members believe that their opinions should over rule the desires of the majority of the members.

The "change" we are considering in this article are not changes that are unscriptural. We are thinking about changes that God does not care about. Changes to the times of meeting for worship, changes involving the sale of property or moving to another location. Or, changes that have to do with material things. These are the things that many people get really upset about and resist any kind of change.

It is never good to change just for the sake of changing. There must always be a good reason for change. A change must be for the benefit of the congregation. A change must be something that the majority of members are in favor of. It would be wrong for a congregation to make changes that the majority do not agree with. It is also wrong not to make necessary changes just because a few resist and are opposed to the change. Above all, we must love one another and treat each other with respect even if we disagree with them. Next week we will consider **BUILDING TOWARD CHANGE.**