



Tradition vs. Change

It seems that everything in the world today is struggling with the battle of Tradition vs. Change. From technology to morals, a warfare of epic proportions rages between those who crusade for change and those who clamor for holding on to the traditional “way it has always been done.” It is more than interesting that the Scriptures address both of these seemingly opposing concepts. In Proverbs we are warned against removing the “ancient landmarks.” Yet, in II Corinthians it is stated that we who walk with God are “changed . . . from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Which of these is to be our focus? The simple truth is that both of these are to be.

There are some things that dare never change. Non-negotiable truth (i.e. the fundamentals) must remain constant, or we will “change” to our peril. It is around these “fundamental” truths that earlier generations gathered and from which they refused to waver. These truths (doctrines) included: the deity of Christ; the virgin birth; the vicarious atonement; the bodily resurrection of Christ; the visible return of Christ; a literal heaven and hell, etc. Any true Christian believes, loves and tenaciously holds on to these truths.

At the same time, change in other areas is an absolute necessity. Growth is change. Physical growth means change in appearance. Intellectual growth means change in understanding. Spiritual growth means change in character. For effective ministry to occur in a changing world, we must adapt without adopting to the sins of our contemporary world. At our disposal today are a wealth of tools that can aid us in reaching our culture with the gospel. H.O.P.E. Ministries and its staff are committed to utilizing these to the fullest without accommodating any of this world’s wickedness. It is well documented that the longer a ministry exists, the greater the tendency for it to become institutionalized, ingrown and self-focused. Ministries who become this, fail in the very reason for their existence. May God grant us His power to infiltrate our culture with the unchanging truth of God’s word, presented in a fresh, Spirit-filled and life-changing way, making use of all the contemporary tools at our disposal.

Dave Kistler

President,

H.O.P.E Ministries International
www.hopeministriesonline.com