



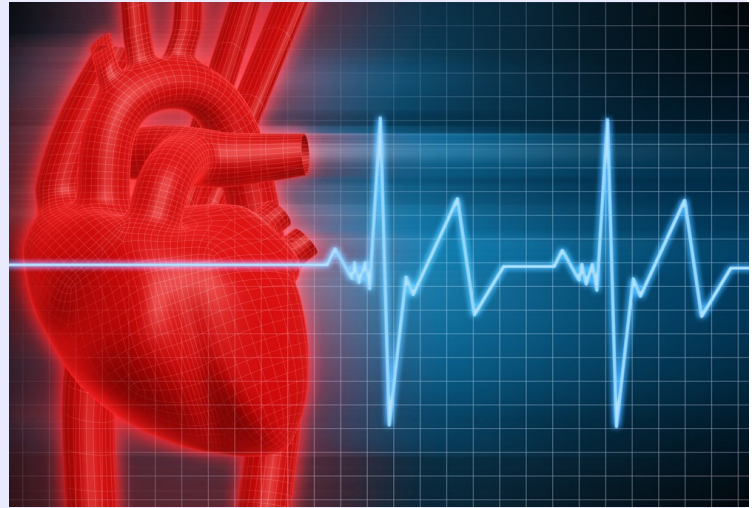
Change. It is everywhere around us.

Our former pastor and his wife used to sing a song every once in a while back when we lived in the Washington, DC area. That song was “Change My Heart O God” and it was written by Eddie Espinosa. Here are some of the lyrics in case you don't know this praise chorus.

*Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You*

*You are the potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray*

*Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You*



That song did not mean as much to me back then as it does today. Today, my life is all about change. There are changes at work as we continue to try to “do more with less” and operate within a budget that is flat to down from what it was last year. There are changes at church as we completely retool how we are engaged with one another around the foundation of the Bible and fellowship. There are changes at home as we adjust to various family dynamics. Clearly change is everywhere.

One of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, said, “*There is nothing certain in this world but death and taxes.*” And I would add one more thing to that list; Change!

But let me split a few hairs with the beloved Benjamin Franklin. I would suggest that external change is in fact inevitable. Highway construction forces me to change the time I leave for work and the route I take. Growing older forces me to eat differently than I did 30 years ago. These are just a few examples of external change forces.

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However, internal change is not as inevitable. For instance, my attitudes will not change on their own unless I choose to lay down the burden of bitterness that I am carrying and allow God to begin to heal my bitterness. My heart will not soften on its own. It will only happen as a result of my

yielding completely to the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit as He continues to mold me and make me in the image of my Heavenly Father.

While the world around me is rapidly changing, it is up to me to determine if I will accept those changes or reject them.

We recently elected a president here in the United States who ran his campaign on a platform of “Hope and Change”. Now, I am not trying to make a political statement about the relative merits of his positions on the many issues that face our nation today. I will only say the following; Not all change is good. Not all change is bad. Changes that bring about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness should be embraced. Changes that would impede our ability to live as a free and sovereign nation should be resisted. And whether a change is ultimately good or bad is often hard to discern.

But this much I know. God wants to deal with changes in me at a heart level. While I may want to make cosmetic changes on the outside. God wants to change me from the inside.

But what about my job? My church? My home?



Talk to your boss about your job. Talk to your spouse about your home. But talk to God about what is going on in your heart and in your church. Notice I didn't say “*Talk to your pastor.*” There is a reason. If you and God are on the same page about where He is leading your church, then you won't need to talk to your pastor about that. And if you and God aren't on the same page, then He wants to change your heart so that your heart and His heart beat as one.

Philippians 2:5 says, “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*” It is just one verse from a powerful chapter on relationships within the church, within the Body of Christ. I invite you to take some time this week and re-read that whole chapter in a modern translation. I think you will find that it fits into

this subject quite nicely. I think you will find some relevance to what each of us face as leaders in the church. I think it will help us examine our hearts and attitudes about the changes going on in the church today.

So, those lyrics that Pastor John and Amy used to sing 10 years ago are still ringing in my ears today. And I say with them, “*Change my heart, oh God.*” Then and only then will I be able to be effective in ministry and demonstrate life-altering change the way that Jesus Christ intended.

What about you? Are there any big changes going on in your life? Are there any big changes going on in your heart?