

Change:

Alter or become different.



When a person surrenders his or her life to Christ, they *are* a new creation (2Cor. 5:17), but then begins the process of sanctification, aligning their behavior to their identity. They are different, but change is required to continue the alteration to become more like Christ. Paul wrote in the same letter, that Christians are being transformed into Christ's likeness. The problem is that too often, we do not see that transformation, that change taking place. People get complacent and may even resist change. Counseling theory asserts that people won't change until the pain of remaining the same exceeds the pain of change. Yet, *change* is what God wants of us - everything in His word points to the need to change and become more of who we are in Christ.

We see resistance to change everywhere, but it seems that it stands out most in the marriage relationship. We point out the change needed in our spouse, but when our spouse points out change needed in us, we call our spouse controlling or domineering. Who better to see those rough edges, those flaws, that need to be transformed to make us more into Christ's likeness than our spouse? How repulsive it is to see a husband or wife demanding changes in their spouse, when they refuse to change themselves. Friends, it is *not* our job to change our spouse, but *is* our job to submit to a holy God and allow Him to change us *and* to be an active participant in that change.

Contrary to popular opinion, the purpose of marriage is not to make you happy, but to make you holy. One of the purposes of marriage is *change*! Marriage is supposed to be a place where husband and wife grow together, to become, not different people, but *different* as they are transformed more into the image of Christ. Yet too many say 'I *can't* change,' meaning they won't make the effort to see change happen in their life. Sometimes change will occur when one spouse or the other says enough and walks out - *then* a spouse will change! Change, becoming different, transforming more into the image of Christ, *must* be a part of our lives on a *daily* basis! Stop resisting and become an active participant in the change God wants to achieve in your life. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2); soaking your self in God's word, listening to your spouse and being the change you desire for your marriage relationship.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

If you find change very difficult, there is help; see our Help for Troubled Marriages section for some great resources to help you.

Be the Change You Wish to See in Your Relationship by Terry Gaspard - www.gottman.com

Want to Save Your Marriage? Change Yourself! by Lee H. Baucom - savethemarriage.com