

**PRINCIPLES FOR BEING CHRISTIAN AND DONG CHURCH**  
**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**

*Changing the Methods While Keeping the Message: Embracing Technology*

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*Principle Five:*

*We must embrace technology as intrinsic to evangelical outreach and as a means of financial support for ministry.*

Since the inception of the Lord's worldwide vision for the Gospel (Matthew 28: 16-20), a one-size-fits-all approach to ministry has never been operative (I Corinthians 9: 19-22).

Flexibility is necessary because

Gospel is relational as well as confrontational (Everyone is not in the same place spiritually I Corinthians 3: 1-2.)

Gospel has a universal message that fits into various situational and individual contexts.

Times change (Hebrews 1: 1-2)

Matthew 9: 16-17: **Major Point of the Parable:** The Lord Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God do not simply call for revision and updates but a new creation.

***Other Lessons:***

Everything wears out in time and needs to be either updated or changed altogether. How prepared or we for change, for updates and for a new creation?

The human tendency to resist change:

The loss of control of the watch industry by the Swiss to the Japanese

The rise of GM and its initial dominance over Ford

The loss of control of automobile industry by US to Japan

The attack upon Jonas Hanway

Man on the moon

Controversy surrounding President John Kennedy

Challenges to the 44<sup>th</sup> President

The Claims of the Gospel and Christian Praxis

The Claims of the Gospel

Our Lord's Conversation with Nicodemus (John 3: 1-21)

II Corinthians 5: 16-17

Christian Praxis

Historic: Copernicus and Galileo

Contemporary:

Worship Wars

Choral singing (Excerpt from D. Payne's ***Recollections of Seventy Years***);

Styles of Music  
Instruments: Drums, Synthesizers,  
Liturgical Dance  
Women in Leadership  
Tithing/Traditional Fundraising  
New Translations of Scripture (Martyrdom of William Tyndale)  
Giving  
Lesson from Business  
Universal credit cards that are used in businesses that have  
their own credit cards  
My experience with Easy Pass and airports  
Every business makes it easy to pay except church  
Church is only business that requires its users to dress up,  
come at a certain time, use an envelope and put it in the  
offering plate to give money  
Other Giving Options  
Online  
Giving kiosks  
Mogiv

#### Reasons for Change

God: The Trinity and Incarnation Challenges Traditional Views of God (William P. Young, *The Shack*)

God's Infinite Creative Possibilities That Did Not End in Genesis

The Mission and Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel is not about patching but newness (Matthew 9: 16-17)

Matthew 11: 1-5

Luke 4: 14-19

The work of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5: 22-23 (Fruit is growth of new life from old ground)

God's Vision for our Own Growth

God desires more growth for us than we desire for ourselves and growth means change.

New generations and cultural changes

#### Implications for Life and Christian Leadership

Everyone no matter how brilliant or holy has a change ceiling or barrier

How far up does your change ceiling reach?

At what point do you say this far and no farther?

What accounts for your change ceiling or barrier?

Age: What about Noah (Genesis 5: 32, 6: 7: 6), Abraham (Genesis 12: 4) and Moses (Deuteronomy 34: 7)?

Gender: What about Deborah, Barak and the armies of Israel (Judges 4);

Solomon and Queen of Sheba (I Kings 10); Huldah and Josiah (II Kings 22); Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:18, 18:26, Romans 16: 3) Paul and

Lydia (Acts 16: 11-15, 16: 40)?

Background: What about Phillip and Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8: 26-40); Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)?  
Laziness and Complacency

Options for Dealing with Change Ceilings and Barriers

Receive the Lord's reprimand: Matthew 16: 21-23

Become a torn garment and busted wineskins

Tragedy and consequences of spilled wine: John 6: 60-70

Earnestly pray Psalm 139: 23

Adopt II Peter 3: 18-19 as motto, standard and grow

Challenge and Joy of Heaven

Challenge: Revelation 21: 1-5

Joy: I Corinthians 15: 50-58

Until then continue to follow II Peter 3: 18-19