



Part 4: The Challenge of Change

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September 29 & 30, 2012

**A difficult truth about life:
Change is the only constant.**

The Church Was in Transition

From peace...

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:42-47

...to persecution

¹And Saul was there, giving his approval to his death. On that day, a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ²Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. – Acts 8:1-3

From the physical presence of Jesus to the spiritual presence of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵"If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. – John 14:15-19

From the rules of the Old Testament law to the freedom of the New Covenant

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. – Luke 22:20

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. – Hebrews 9:15

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From membership to ownership

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. – Acts 4:29

It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for those Gentiles, who are turning to God. – Acts 15:19

Members have rights; owners have responsibilities.

**If you refuse to embrace transition,
you will be forever stuck.**

Next Steps

Here are three specific ways you can become an “owner” of CTK’s mission:

- 1) Respond to the Volunteer Challenge insert in today’s program. If you’re not already serving, find a way to get started.
- 2) Take part in our upcoming Group Leader Training. Look for someone with a clipboard in the Commons after the service to get all the info you need.
- 3) If you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus, begin the discipline of regular giving, no matter how small you need to start.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What’s the greatest change you have made in your lifetime?
- 2) How do you handle change?
 - a. I love it – bring it on.
 - b. I tolerate it – but it freaks me out.
 - c. I resist it – I like things the way they are.
- 3) Share an area of your life where you are in transition. Where can you see God’s hand in that change?
- 4) How can you own the mission of Jesus (to seek and save the lost) starting today? What practical steps can you boldly take to get on mission with Jesus?
- 5) What responsibilities do you have as a disciple of Jesus?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and in the coming week?

OUR MISSION

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.