The Changing Future Church - What to Keep and What to Discard!

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Right now... everything is changing - the Scientific Revolution and the information age has plummeted all of us into unprecedented change in every area of our lives!

Change is happening especially in the Church! That means, as ministers and believers, it is imperative that we rightly discern where we are going. During this time of extraordinary change, we need wisdom to know what to keep and what to discard!

- 1) There are two sides to this change! The first component of change concerns the precious ideals that we must value and keep. Let's call them lawful BOUNDARIES. A boundary indicates a proper border or limit. There must be rock solid unalterable truths and we must continue to honor the Word of God as sacrosanct.
- A) The correct BOUNDARIES that we must maintain are legitimate moral standards and principles of Christ-like character.

We have all noticed how sacred boundaries are being disregarded. We watch the devastating crisis of popular preachers who dilute truths for the sake of modernism! Their lifestyles are embarrassing. They choose to alter or ignore Scripture in order to legitimatize their own immoral activities.

B) Proper "boundaries" are indisputable Theological Truths that will never change.

There are unmovable Truths of Scriptures that must be treasured and cherished, they must be defended and fortified. We must agree that the rightly translated Word of God is inviolable and irrefutable!

Unfortunately, we find ministers breaking hallowed boundaries all around us! They promote false and polluting doctrines that grow rampantly! Congregations dangerously choose to keep following these leaders who use their pulpit to degrade truth and who violate sacred principles.

- Conviction has turned to a "guilt trip."
- "Sin" is not a "relevant" word.
- The COMMANDMENTS of Christ are denied as being "significant."

There are many genuine, rightful, and legitimate ethics and principles that must be upheld and protected.

The Good news is that ministers and leaders have the crucial privilege to apostolically lead the Church with fundamental integrity during this time of reform and revolution!

- We must provoke believers into discipleship and obedience (yes, that forgotten word).
- We have the opportunity to preserve desirable boundaries by modeling ethical, decent, honest, reliable, and principled behavior.
- We also have the obligation to teach and uphold these unmovable truths that must remain as our prized standards and BOUNDARIES.

Truth doesn't ever change. God never changes. But our understanding of God and Truth does progress as we learn more about Who God is. And, as we proceed further into Truth, our capacity and perspective increases and changes.

Ministers who passionately desire to move forward into this ongoing process of finding advancing truth will honor the rightful boundaries. At the same time, they know that believers are looking for MORE!

Perceptive apostolic leaders of this new day must desire to release congregations into their distinctive purpose and unique destiny. They know that only a genuine spiritual and authentic Biblical awakening will unlock the believer's potential to profoundly impact the world and live a fully vitalized and satisfied life.

2) That's why now we must also consider the other side of CHANGE, we must look at the BARRIERS as well. A barrier blocks, obstructs, or impedes. A barrier can separate or hold apart. It can restrain (like a fence or gate). Every incorrect and limiting barrier MUST be taken down and corrected.

What are the false "barriers?"

A pandemic "old-school" stupor has blinded the expectations of many. Believers are totally sick and tired of just attending church services like Wally and Beaver Cleaver. They are bored with "feel good" shouting sermons. And... they aren't maturing in the consumer friendly Gospel! They can't continue striving with ineffective religion, needless rhetoric, and old mentalities of archaic paradigms.

The truth that every minister must know is that ongoing present revelation brings LIFE! We must deliver the most cutting edge and theologically sound information available. The God who dwells in our midst, gives us keys to unveil and activate His powerful NOW purposes.

It is time to shatter the rigid stained glass ceiling of the past and to break the mold of the hindering and no longer useful old wineskins. These pretentious and even arrogant barriers must be destroyed. The list is way too long to even try to write. Among these barriers are:

Individual barriers. We must confront that lens of superstition and limiting ideas that restrain and keep believers from being fully self expressed and released into their destiny.

Social barriers. Well, Jesus already broke all of these social barriers as an example of how we should act toward those who are less fortunate. We must esteem one another.

Gender barriers. We must know beyond any doubt that the image of God is both male and female (Gen. 5:2)! Both men and women can individually express full Truth.

Racial barriers. We must apprehend the dynamic truth that the unity of the Body can only be expressed through diversity.

Denominational barriers. Believers must continually press into NOT camping at the doorstep of past rigid doctrines that become obstacles to the power of God.

Doctrinal Barriers. Briefly, let's notice that a closer study of the original Greek shows us that God is not vengeful. The first Church was full of BIG thinkers! Some of them may have had less money, but none were poverty minded. They were not Levitical. The first leaders were appointed as apostles and not priests. They were not looking to escape - no matter how difficult life became. They were not fearful of man's opinion. They did not cower or even bother to spiritually map the devil. They were willing to die for what they believed. And, how wonderful to find out that the Power of the Holy Spirit impacted in even greater measure than we have imagined!

We must maintain the righteous God-given BOUNDARIES and at the same time combat the counterfeit BARRIERS that must be removed.

It was the mission of Jesus to tear down every barrier of religion and replace it with Himself! He retrieved all authority and gave it to us.

By His authority, we break illegitimate barriers so that the Lord can lead us in dynamic and vibrant ways that resonate with His intentions.

Our vision clarifies. God is good - He doesn't tempt us with evil. He loves us. He forgives us. He wants to heal us. It is His will that we are whole in our spirit, soul, and body. He loves to bless and prosper us. His Kingdom is expanding! His Kingdom is WITHIN US. He wants us to victoriously LIVE in His sight!

It is the glorious day of the RADICAL RENNOVATION OF OUR BELIEF SYSTEMS. The Lord reveals to us fresh and unheard truth that speaks of unprecedented newness. It requires vast structural and governmental changes. Present Truth won't fit any past mold or definition.

As barriers break, we need to be open to learn new truthful concepts that will propel us further into God's holy and luminous presence. It is with fervent expectation that we grasp

the exploding and immeasurable revelation of a God who loves us and Who lives in the NOW!

Today is the moment for profound and unparalleled insights. We who live in this hour, have the incredible opportunity to transition into the Apostolic New Day of the Church and the freshness of the Power of the Spirit! Our mandate is to usher in "The revealing of Christ in a People!"