BIBLICAL CHANGE

Dr. Kenneth W. Jones, Pastor, Practical Living Ministry
Everyone wants to know, "How can I change?" The best and most enduring change comes into our life when we are transformed by time spent with the Lord. There are other ways to change, such as guilt, willpower, or coercion, but none of these methods bring change that is as deep and lasts as long as the transformation that comes by the Spirit of God as we spend time in the presence of the Lord.
“Now Wait A Minute!” – Am I not already changed just by virtue of being Born Again?”

There is a spiritual conversion that takes place at the New Birth, but it is up to the believer, to change, “put on Christ,” resist, “put off fleshly deeds” and submit oneself to the transforming grace of God.
Why This Message?

- Many Christians struggle with who they are and with areas of change.

- Being Born Again doesn’t mean that transformation is evident. You must submit yourselves (Romans 12:1,2).

- The process of biblical change is intentional and directed by the Spirit, the Word of God, and exercise of spiritual disciplines.
Biblical Change Requires

- **Trust** – Belief that God, through His Spirit will provide, support, strengthen, and keep you, not allowing you to be overwhelmed as you go through the changing process.

- **Discipline** – Changing is a Challenge. It doesn’t come overnight nor by just wishing it. The Bible says, “Make a decisive dedication of your bodies…” (Romans 12:1 – Amp)

- **Consecration stimulates Change** – If you have to be committed and dedicated to change for it to take places.

- **Change is Continual and Progressive** – Every believer is constantly being transformed and matured for God’s purpose.
Understanding Who We Are

World
Represents Ungodly Influence & Secular System;
Realm ruled by Satan
(1st John 2:16; 2nd Cor 4:4)

Humanity
Total Being, yet Self Ruled;
Governed by Emotions, Physical, & knowledge;
Natural Man, disconnected from God w/o spiritual understanding
(1st Cor 2:14; Eph 4:18; 2nd Peter 2:10)

Spiritual Man
Spirit Ruled
Born Again through the Spirit and Transformed into the Image of Christ
(Romans 8:6; 1 Cor 2:15; Ephesians 5: 16,18)

Carnal State
Rom 8:6,7;
1st Cor 3:1-4

Influence
Governance
Desires
Understanding
Choice
Mindset
Nature
Explanation of Chart

- **Humanity – Selfishness; Self-Willed; Alienated from God**
  - Mankind reflects humanity that is “Self-Ruled.” Mankind is a triune being and is governed by his flesh, his desires, emotions, and physical limitations.
  - We know that the natural man does receive or understand the things of God (1st Cor 2:14) and is disconnected and alienated from the life of God without spiritual understanding.

- **The World – Temptation, Lust, Secular, Satanic Influence**
  - The world represents the ungodly influence and secular systems that we are not to love above our love for God that appeals to our senses, our fleshly desires and our pride (Genesis 3:5,6).
  - We also know that satan is the “god of this world” (2nd Cor 4:4).
The spiritual man represents the New Birth; He is redeemed and restored to the Father, born again through the Spirit of God, led by the Spirit, governed by the Spirit experiencing life and peace.

He is encouraged to “Walk in the Spirit” daily; judging his lifestyles and actions by the Spirit and allow the Spirit of God to renew his spirit daily, providing him spiritual knowledge and illumination to the things of God.

The carnal man is torn between two natures: his flesh and the Spirit. He is fleshly connected, resistant, and in enmity against God.
Carnal

- **Carnal** uses the ancient Greek word *sarkikos*, which means, "characterized by the flesh." In this context it speaks of the person who can and should do differently but does not.

- Carnal Christians are sometimes resistance to change realizing that change requires a “dying to Self”
Biblical Change

**Spiritual Change** (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20) – A result of God’s Transformative Grace

**Submission to Change** (Romans 12:1,2) – Presenting Oneself to undergo transforming change

**Sustaining Change** (2 Corinthians) – Walking towards perfection maturing in spiritual fruit
Throughout our lives, we are either hindered, sustained, and even prospered by making changes.

How you decide to change depends upon your focus and purpose.

You must see change as constantly progressing and evolving as your life does the same.
Linear Lifestyle

- Cradle
- Successes
- Old Age

- Socialization
- Material Possessions/Quality of Life
- Grave

Cycle living
“Western” mindset, Hellenistic, based on living the “American Dream”
- Self focused, self gratification, self governed, and selfish ambition

- We are born, go, to school, get an education, a job, get married, raise children, obtain material possessions, get old and die
  - Cradle to the Grave lifestyle
  - Sometimes deterred by getting into “”cyclic” living going around in circles being mis-directed and mis-informed

- The Linear lifestyle does not require much spiritual change
Sustained Kingdom Living

- Centered in God – Required spiritual growth and development

- Dimensional growth based on as a person grows, he affects not only himself, but his community, church, relationships, family, effecting positive spiritual change in all areas

- Each layer or dimension indicates a tasking, activity, or a state of existence
  - For example, A person experiences salvation then because of his zeal, begins to share the good news or message through evangelism. He then grows spiritually into servanthood where he exhibits faithfulness, followership, getting involved in the ministry of helps, and so on
From Servanthood, he receives a calling for his life into ministry where he anointed for service. Through that anointing, he plays an integral part in the church ministering to families, and the community.

As he continues to develop he becomes a leader effecting change and transforming lives as he begins to guide and mentor others. He influences the culture by influencing lives as a transformed community begins with transformed people.

This person looks beyond the grave to an eternal reward rather than being caught up in pursuing earthly things.
You Can Continually Allow the Spirit of God to bring about Transforming Change in Your life or you can remain the same in a “Comfort Zone,” Complacent Mindset

Your “Will” Flips the Switch
We are a Non-Denominational, God-centered, people-focused ministry offering a varied range of spiritual gifts and biblical tools to guide and assist individuals in becoming victorious and overcomers through Christ. Practical Living Ministry has its covering under the International Ministerial Fellowship.

If you would like for Dr. Jones to speak to your church or ministry, especially in the area of biblical leadership or biblical counseling, please contact him at

kenjones@practicallivingministry.org