

The Challenge of Change

Change the way you behave

- We are being told:
 - We are racist
 - We are haters of people
 - We are doing violence by our silence
- We need to change!
- To what?
- Get angry over injustice!
 - To what end?

Change the way you behave

- The Bible tells us we are sinners
- We need to change
- We need to confess; the next step= repent

We cannot change ourselves

- Sin is deep within us
- “Depth of our depravity”
- We are incapable of cleaning up our own lives
- Those who are demanding that we change do not lead any better lives than others

Confess and Repent

- **Repent**
- to feel sorry, self-reproachful, or contrite for past conduct; ...
- to change one's life for the better; be penitent.

- Jer 18: ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.
- ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me. ⁶ He said,...“Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. Jer 18: ⁷ If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸ and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.

2. God wants to mold us like a Potter

- As a nation
- As individuals
- “Repent” means to true up our aim
 - Remorseful
 - Change our lives for the better

3. People resist change

- Stubbornness
 - Let everybody else change
 - Why should I change?
 - I like me the way I am
 - Change is too painful

4. God wants us to be like Jesus

- Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,

5. Becoming like Jesus involves change

- By the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Strength
 - Insight
 - Inner change results in behavior change

5. Becoming like Jesus involves change

- **From what... to what?**

- Gal 5:19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

So What?

- You need to change your behavior
- All people need to change their behavior
- We are powerless to clean up our own lives
- We can change the outside; but still seethe inside
- One can legislate behavior but you cannot legislate love
- We need the Potter's power of the Holy Spirit