

Moses – A Leader Who Wasn't Afraid Of Change

Exodus 18:11-27

Introduction:

1. The church is a living **body** – the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27;
Ephesians 5:30
2. Because of this, **growth** should be a very natural part of the church. Ephesians 2:21;
1 Peter 2:2
3. But there is no growth without **change**. Romans 12:2
4. Therefore, leaders and churches must learn to embrace change.
5. Let's examine an event in Moses' life and see how we can become people who learn to embrace change.

First, by realizing that principles stay the same, but **methods** will constantly change

1. What was the guiding principle? The **needs** of the people must be met.
2. But, under Jethro's advice, Moses changed the **method**.

Second, by refusing to fall in **love** with forms (the way we've always done it), but rather focus on function

1. A "form" is a non-biblical **tradition** that many people come to love and embrace.
2. Many times our "forms" **bind** us and keep us from functioning. Matthew 15:1-6
3. Moses' form may have worked at one time, but as the nation of Israel grew, it was no longer **functional**, practical, or workable.
4. If they had clung to form rather than function, Moses would have **worn** out and the people's needs would not have been met.
5. If the church continues to cling to their "forms," it will stagnate and eventually dwindle.
6. Sadly, many believers will let their church be _____ before they will give up their "forms."

Third, by humbly receiving _____ from others

1. The leader, Moses, had a decision to make. “Do I cling to the traditional, non-working ‘form,’ or do I dare to change?”
2. Moses humbly received this advice and decided to dare to change.
3. When a person gives us advice, it is usually a call to _____. This isn’t easy to take.
4. But here are some biblical thoughts from the book of Proverbs about receiving advice from others:

- *“Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.”*

Proverbs 4:13

➤ When we quit learning, we _____.

- *“Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.”* **Proverbs 8:33**

➤ Do you want to become wiser? Become a better _____!

- *“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.”* **Proverbs 9:9**

➤ A refusal to receive instruction is a problem of the _____.

➤ A wise man is always open to _____ ideas and better ways of doing things.

- *“Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.”* **Proverbs 12:1**

➤ Do you want to get smarter? Don’t just tolerate instruction, learn to _____ it.

- *“Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.”* **Proverbs 13:18**

➤ Those that _____ instruction seldom excel in life.

- *“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.”* **Proverbs 19:20**

➤ Believers who possess great _____ did not receive it by accident, but through years of humbly receiving instruction from others.

5. How well do you receive advice and instruction from others?

(1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10)

not very well

very well