

embrace
change.

EMBRACE POSITIVE CHANGE

In David Bayles and Ted Orland 2001 book, we read an interesting story on change that occurred in the 1490s. The perspective of everyone in Europe at this time was that the earth was flat. After months of exploration since departure on 3rd August 1492, losing a ship on the journey, Christopher Columbus returned to Palos, Spain on 15th March 1493 confirming that the earth was indeed round. Right after that moment almost everyone went right back to believing that the earth was flat. Then that generation died, and the next generation grew up believing the world was round. Bayles and Orland concludes "That is how people change their minds". Truth is, we all resist change. We resist change because we are afraid of the unknown. We resist change because we are afraid of personal loss [security and control]. We resist change because of tradition. We hold the assumption that if something is tradition, it must be better. Quite honestly, change makes us feel awkward. Change is not always wrong, it just makes us feel different, and that takes us out of our comfort zone. In fact, if you check carefully, the last time you experienced growth was when you actually left your comfort zone and embraced positive change [take a moment to think about this and see if it is true?]. And change starts from within – in the mind. George Bernard Shaw states, "Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything". It is never too late to change. Change will always come and it will always cost but the commitment to pay the price of positive change will ultimately bring new vitality and a fresh reality. Romans 12:2 (MSG) states: "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

Reflection points for this week

Do change benefit-cost analysis by going through the following question:

1. What recent benefit have I derived from sticking with old traditions? If there is none, does that mean its time to change from those non-beneficial traditions and old way of doing things?
2. Is this the right time for change? (chances are that this will probably be the right time. Procrastination will not help.)
3. Am I afraid because change will make me look like a student – stripped of my authority and control? (its time to take another look at your leadership style because true leadership is influence and not by control or authority)