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Seasons of Change

How change troubles our hearts ... John 14, 15

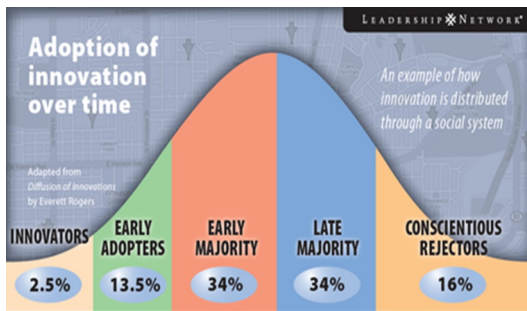
John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled..."

- ☑ Believe in God Trust
- ☑ Believe also in Me..... Abide

1. Change spawns GRIEF (Due to Loss)

-  **DENIAL**
Attempting to squeeze into ill clothes, putting off making a hiding poor purchases in a wa
It's not that bad ...
-  **ANGER**
Anger at the retailer; anger at share anger with friends.
It's just not right ...
-  **BARGAINING**
Ask for opinions from family; make a resolution to diet or a hope that fashions change; bi make alterations to improve t
It's a trade off ...
-  **DEPRESSION**
Upset at having the "wrong" b upset at waste of money or b return item; upset at being ur the item.
It's so overwhelming ...
-  **ACCEPTANCE**
Return items to store; sell or give up on diet/exercise resolu
It's God's deeper ways ...

2. Change requires ADJUSTMENT (Surfing!)



3. Change triggers DISAGREEMENT (Like...)



SUMMARY OVERVIEW

When Jesus told the disciples He was about to leave them after shepherding them so faithfully, their hearts became greatly troubled.
 (John 13:33– 14:1)

So do most of the people in a church family when they discover their pastor/shepherd is leaving them — a BIG change and a BIG loss.

Here is why BIG change/loss is so tough:

1. Change spawns Grief. If the remaining leaders do not see or believe that most of the church will be experiencing the 5 Stages of Grief during the months of the transition, they are making a serious miscalculation and will most likely try to rapidly exhort the people to "move on and trust God for the days ahead." But people need to be pastored, not ignored or belittled for their grief.

2. Change requires Adjustments. A study of the disciples lives after Jesus left and current studies of how groups adjust to change reveal that very few make rapid adjustments to new things, most take many months, and about 16% just can't make the adjustment. Church leaders need to be aware of this dynamic during pastoral transitions.

3. Change triggers Disagreements. Without the cover of an compassionate lead pastor, disagreements come up quickly. When someone disagrees with us, it can sometimes feel like an emotional knife attack, or is a passive-aggressive response, it can feel like brick upon brick of one divisive issue after another until there is a wall between parties or sides. This can lead to a great and divisive spirit of **DISTRUST**, and once that happens, the "other side" cannot do anything right in our eyes.

This is why Jesus gently pastored His disciples and encouraged them to:

1. **Believe in God ... TRUST Him**
2. **Believe in Me ... ABIDE in Him**

In this way our spirits get settled and we can start to reflexively see disagreements like **OPEN WINDOWS** of opportunity to stick our heads through and see issues in a different light. This way, both sides can heal and grow!

JOHN 13:33-38; 14:1

Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

36 Simon Peter *said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later."

37 Peter *said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."

38 Jesus *answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

14:1 **"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.**