

When is the last time you changed for God?
1 Peter 4:1-5
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how important it is to change our lives to please God.

Intro: 1. What changes are you wanting to make in the new year?
2. What about in your spiritual life? Is there room for change? Room for improvement?

I. People make changes in their life for different reasons.

A. (Common Reasons) Health

1. Poor health can come on for a variety of reasons. This time of the year it is very common for folks to attempt to make healthy changes in their lives.
2. Exercise, eating healthier, taking vitamins, and other steps are taken to improve one's health.

B. Marital relationships

1. Strain in a marriage, like health problems, can be caused by multiple things.
2. Addressing these things and making the proper changes are extremely important, if you want your marriage bond to be strengthened.

C. Spiritual Improvements

1. What spiritual improvements might want make for God?
 - a. More time reading & studying God's Word (**Ps 63:6**)
 - b. Regular attendance of services (**Heb 10:24-25, Ps 122:1**)
 - c. Get involved in a work or works of the church (**Isa 6:8**)
 - d. Personal Evangelism (**Acts 8:29-31**)

II. Do people often change for God?

A. Why should one change for God?

1. Only a fool would say they have no need of spiritual improvement (**Mt 19:17-22**)
2. We should always strive to be stronger, more knowledgeable Christians (**Heb 5:14**).
3. Is there sin in your life that you have been refusing to give up? (**Mt 23:37**)

B. How does one change for God?

1. A person must desire to change.
 - a. No change happens by accident.
 - b. Man changes because he desires to do so.
2. Man sees he can do better. (Man is humble)
 - a. Man desires to get serious and truly, humbly and totally follow God (**1 Pt 4:7**)

III. Lessons for us today.

A. When is it necessary to change for God?

1. The real question is, when it is not a time to change for God?
2. If there is room for improvement in our lives, and there always is, then we should change because we love God and we want to be the best possible servant we can be for Him.

B. What happens if one will not change for God?

1. Hearts can grow cold, our love or care for the church can shrink or even disappear.
2. We upgrade appliances and devices, why not upgrade our spiritual lives by being better servants for God.
 - a. We often get a notice when there is an update for our computers or other devices. God gives us notices when we can update our lives to better align with the Christian life.
 - b. He does so by giving us His word which tells us when we need to repent and when we have room for growth.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Are you willing to change for God?
2. Are you willing to upgrade your spiritual life?
3. If not, why not?
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9