



**CHANGE
AHEAD**

We have just gone into a new year

New year resolutions were made

(Many have been broken already)

- Change is needed
- Change is possible
- A new year is a good time to implement change

- ❑ But things won't change because you had more to drink this year or because you shot off more fireworks.
- ❑ Things will only change if you change.
- ❑ You and I don't change lives God does & he uses His Word to convict stubborn hearts of sin.



- ❑ Salvation starts with change & to live differently we must think differently
- ❑ Repentance = Metanoia (Greek for change of mind)
- ❑ Rom 12v1-2 Transformation (change) by the renewing of our minds
- ❑ ***Honest Question***: Is the Church radically different from the world? Are we strangers, aliens, pilgrims?
- ❑ Or are we conformed to this world? If so our minds must be renewed
- ❑ To change we've first got to be convinced that we need to change and secondly we've got to want to change and lastly we must take action eg: start with fasting & praying

❑ **As mentioned to act differently we must think differently**

❑ Living by rules imposed on you that are not inward convictions is RELIGION

➤ 2 Cor 5:17 If any man be in Christ he is a new creation old things have passed away behold all things have become new.

➤ Eph 4:17-19 & 22-32 God doesn't magically wave a wand and our habits change we've got to exercise our free will and put things to death. (ie: Strangle / Kill them.)

❑ **Humans are creatures of habit**

- We tend to act as we acted in the past and like a river running through a canyon, the longer the habit continues the more deeply it becomes ingrained and the harder it is to change this is true of good and bad habits



☐ **Christians must:**

A) Learn good habits

Bible study

Prayer

Attending church

Teaching others

Giving

B) Eliminate bad habits

Foul language

Uncontrollable temper

Gossip

Lying

Pornography

❑ ***There are things that must change if we want to change but I just want to focus on one today***

❑ **CHANGE YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE**

➤ ***Honest Question:***

- ❖ What is your purpose in life?
- ❖ What are you passionate about?
- ❖ What drives you?
- ❖ What do you think about?
- ❖ What do you spend your money on?
- ❖ What do you spend your time on?

□ BEFORE PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO CHANGE THEY MUST BE MOTIVATED

- Most of us who are exposed to Gods Word and ministry know that there are things in our lives that need to change and yet we come to the close of another year and they haven't changed.

□ SOME THINGS THAT SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO CHANGE OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE

➤ LOVE AND DEDICATION TO **GOD**

❖ Macedonians 2 Cor 8:1-5 & 7 (they first gave themselves to the LORD)

❑ An unconverted person thinks giving 10% of your salary to GOD is crazy, but once you have given yourself to GOD, giving 10% to Him is just a starting point.

❑ ***Honest Question:*** Do you tithe?

- Our missionaries were only paid in January for December
- God doesn't drop money in our church bank account
- Sadly many professing Christians are described in Haggai 1:4-7 & 9



❑ **Changing our conduct becomes much easier when we are totally dedicated to GOD'S service**

❖ **LOVE IS STRONGEST FORCE IN EXISTANCE.**

➤ A parent will run in to a burning building to save their child

John 3.16 GOD "so loved" the world that he gave his only Son

Rom 2v4 The Love of GOD leads to repentance

➤ If you are having difficulty changing you need to learn to appreciate GOD'S mercy & blessing and love him in return

Jesus said if you love me you will (not must) keep my commandments John 14v15,21,23 & 24

❑ **IMITATION OF CHRIST OR A CHRIST-LIKE PERSON**

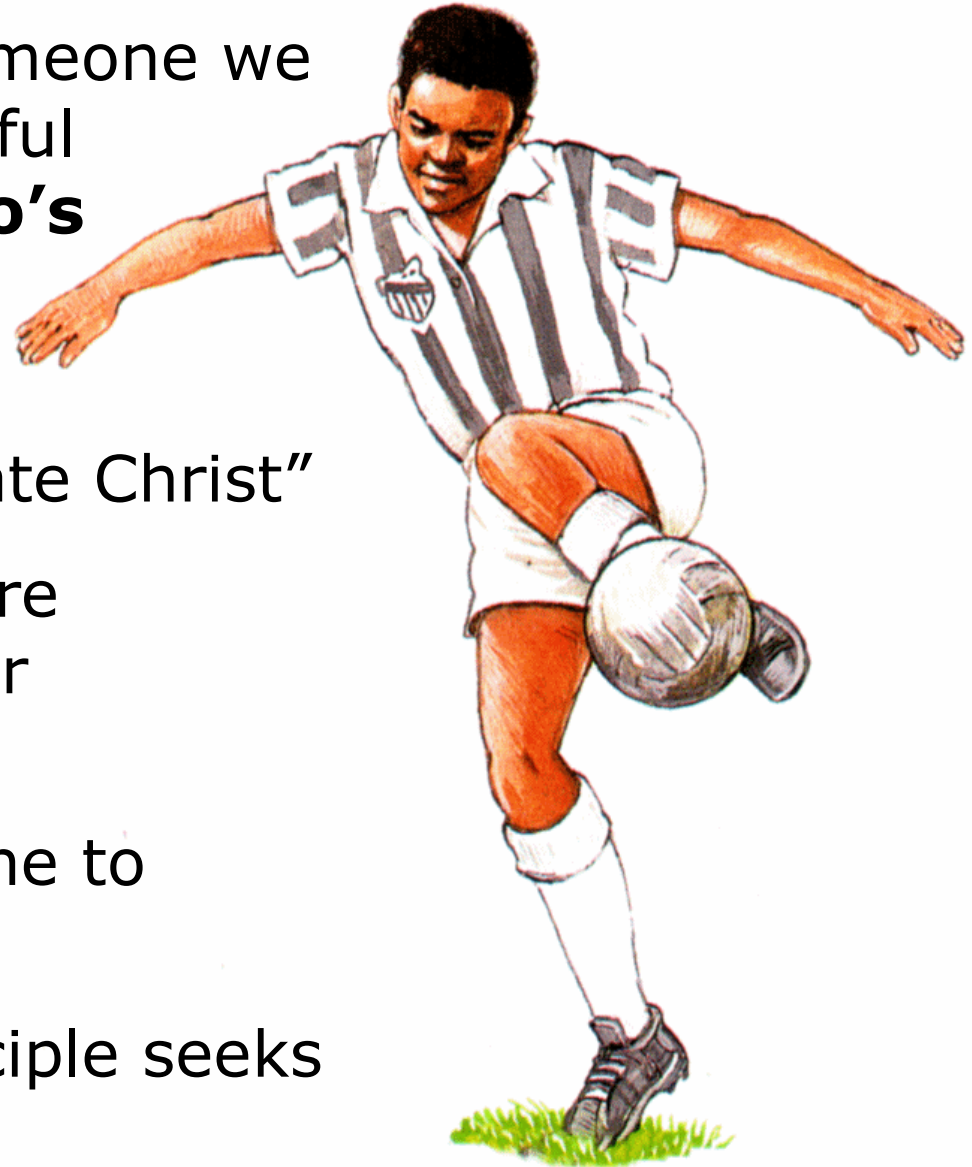
- ❑ The desire to be like someone we admire is another powerful motivation (**Sports hero's inspire people**)

- I Cor 11:1 Paul says
"imitate me as I imitate Christ"

- **Honest Question:** Are you imitating Christ or someone Christ-like?

Could you tell someone to imitate you?

- Matt 10:24-25 A disciple seeks to be like his Master



❑ **DESIRE FOR ETERNAL LIFE NOT ETERNAL PUNISHMENT**

- I Cor 9:25-27 Athletes control their habits win temporary earthly honor Christians have a strong motive "We seek the crown of eternal life"

❑ **Lack of motivation is major reason why people do not change to please GOD**

- They do not have sufficient desire to change, instead they want to please themselves or their friends or family
- When we determine to please God and realize that serving him is our most important purpose in life, we will find the means to make the necessary changes.