

## Discussion Questions For Third Change Video...

- What do you think Pastor Larkin's real point was in his illustration of different shapes of ketchup bottles at the beginning of a lecture on congregational change? (Credit: the ketchup illustration is borrowed from Vernon Roseneau, past President of Baptist Mid-Missions). How can this analogy help clarify what changes are wise or unwise?
- The New Testament church in Ephesus is often admired as one of the greatest assemblies of all antiquity. What points of commendation are found in Revelation 2:2,3)? Why is it important to understand their example?
- Though in many ways they were "holding the line" what did Jesus identify in Revelation 2:4 as a major area of failure in Ephesus? How do you understand the concept of "first love" in this context? What does this say about the relationship of position to disposition? Cf. Matthew 22:37
- What change was commanded in Revelation 2:5? The video defines repentance as a change of mind. How can local churches exercise a change of mind without engaging in disobedience or sinful compromise? Think ketchup.
- According to Revelation 2:5 what did Jesus declare would be the consequence in Ephesus if they refused to change their mind? What lessons about stubborn resistance to change can we learn from the archeological ruins Pastor Larkin found and all tourists see in modern Ephesus?
- The Spirit had spoken to the church at Ephesus. How does the Spirit speak to us today (2 Timothy 3:16,17)? How can we more effectively hear and heed what the Holy Spirit desires for us as local churches? What part could passages like Ecclesiastes 7:10 and 1 Corinthians 9:22,23 have in your answer?
- Revelation 2:7 indicates local churches are to be populated with overcomers. Recall the first century application of that term legally, militarily, and athletically. In the context of Christ's evaluation of the church at Ephesus, what is our pathway to being losers or overcomers?

- The video concludes with three foundational truths about change. 1) Neither God nor His Word can change. 2) The Bible is our only rule of faith and practice. 3) As long as it is in conformity with the Bible we must be willing to do whatever is necessary to increase our effectiveness in the cause of Christ. How important is it to have clear Biblical authorization for what we approve or disapprove? Do differing viewpoints or practices necessarily mean one is right or the other is wrong? What really matters?

- We invite you to prayerfully consider the Biblical truths and principles in this series which can help you shape a strategy and pathway to positive change. What personal and congregational changes do you believe God might be leading you to make at this time? How can you and your local church leadership team work together to bring about Biblical change for God's glory and the good of the ministry?