

Making It Better

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Today's world revolves around a term called "continual improvement." This term is being used in businesses throughout the world. Many companies driving the American economy have adopted this edict by applying it to their internal systems, employees, and the sales and marketing of their products. I would venture to say that if you look around as you walk through your home you will find a number of products that you currently use that have labels loudly proclaiming "New and Improved!"

This mentality should be at the very heart of today's companies as competition continues to increase from outside the United States. Ways to improve production, informational data reporting, product market share, and employee results, are the only way to keep companies afloat in today's furious business climate. As an employee one needs to embrace this idea rather than fight it to maintain a place within the company. If change is not what you like, move over because someone is always waiting in the wings to replace those hindering and slowing down the process.

Products that I have personally used have been changed with some kind of "improvements" sometimes more than once. I often think, "I chose to use this product because it worked well, why did they need to change it?" Competition and the dollar force these changes. With new technology, higher prices can be captured and enjoyed by companies, even if it is only for a short period of time until the competition catches up. With greater market share comes job security, and reputations that signify success! Is not success what every American lives for? Is not success the very heart of the "American Dream?"

Improvements can be a good thing, however, not always. In some areas it is actually more destructive than successful. When God implemented His plan it was, and still is, the perfect plan. Nothing man can do will improve God's plan. This also is true regarding

the Church. Unfortunately, we can see this same competitive mentality for success running rampant in the religious world today. This idea has been so engrained in the minds of people that it has rolled over into religion. Message boards outside places of worship saying, "Come Grow With Us," to "Growing Bigger And Better To Serve You!" When did the church change its mission from serving God to serving people? Competition and interpretations have divided the once "One True Body" into sections unrecognizable as ever having been associated with the Lord's Church. It is hard to comprehend that at one time there was only ONE! But it is true, because the Bible tells us so.

Today services in many places of worship have certainly changed from what we see in the New Testament. Some claim it to be continual improvement. However, let us consider the example of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4. ***"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wrath? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?"*** (Genesis 4:3-7). The Scriptures are clear that there is a right way and a wrong way to worship the Lord. It is also clear that God not always accepts one's attempt at worship. Cain was wrong when he brought the fruit of the ground as his offering. Abel on the other hand followed the will of God and his offering was accepted. Today, so many have tried to "make it better" by adding to, or taking away from, what God has clearly written as acceptable worship. All one has to do is open their Bible and their heart and listen to what God has to say on the matter. We are to serve God, not how we want to, but how He wants us to. Bigger is not always better, and change is not always improvement. The Lord's Church was "perfect" when it was established. It is competition and misinterpretation that tear it apart!