

## Change: Acceptance is the Key

Change: both good and bad, positive and negative. Either way, I've never been good with it. I like everything to stay the same, nice and orderly, but life doesn't work like that. You have to adapt to new situations you have no control over. Most times, fighting change is useless because nothing will stay the same forever. The world has to move forward and progress, making change inevitable. The sixth CRC principle says to "acknowledge and accept the challenge of change - that it may have both positive and negative consequences." A challenge it is, but a challenge a community goes through together.

As I have already said, when it comes to change, I've never done well with it. I grew up mostly without stability, but I have experienced big changes more often as I got older. The first big change I can remember is when my grandparents moved. I'd practically grown up there; it felt like I'd be losing my home, and I was helpless to stop it. But, over time, I grew to realize that I would always have the sense of home the house brought me with my grandparents. It was a challenge to let go, but acceptance of the change made it easier to live with. Years later, the greatest change that happened to me came with the COVID-19 pandemic. The changes that came with it were anything but positive. I adapted to stay safe, but a part of me didn't truly accept what was going on in the world. Over time, I grew to fully accept it, and it became easier to deal with the repercussions of the pandemic. As you can see, change has occurred in my life and everyone else's in different ways, but acceptance will always make it easier to adapt to, whether it is positive or negative.

Accepting change is a valuable skill because there will never be a time without change, and fighting against it all your life will only make you miserable. Accepting change, whether positive or negative, will always help you move on and see what good could possibly come from the changes. In addition, this principle of accepting change resonates with me because the acceptance of change has never come easy to me. I know how it feels to want to do everything you can to stop change from happening. I know how it feels to wish there was anything you

could do to fix what is already set in stone and undo change. But the truth is, once I accepted change, I started to see the positive in it. When I gave up wanting to fix something that couldn't be reversed, I was happier, more at peace with how it turned out. So yes. Change can be negative, and it can hurt people, but when there's nothing that can undo what has been done, acceptance is the key.

In Goshen, and communities in general, acceptance to change has always been, and will always be, one of the hardest skills to learn. But still, not turning a blind eye to change and accepting it will always serve our Goshen community well. Change is the beginning to everything, whether in our lives, our community, our city, or beyond. The same is true for Goshen. In a future where everyone acknowledges and accepts both the positive and negative effects of change, nothing but good can come from it. Change brings in innovation, and it means preserving our past while moving forward to our future. It means not being in denial of the bad things that have happened and healing from those things. In a future for our Goshen community with acceptance for change, it won't be perfect because nothing ever is, but it will make us stronger and more united. There will be positive change that makes our community better, and there will be negative change that is done out of necessity, but in the end, the challenge of being able to accept change will be well worth it for Goshen in every possible way.

Everyone has seen change in some way, shape, or form. Change is constant, and fighting it will only leave you miserable. Yes, I know the feeling of helplessness that can come with change, but I also know of the good that can come from it. I know of the hope and the innovation. I have told you my experiences, why this principle resonates with me, and my vision for our community with the acceptance of change. All I have left to say is: A future with change is the only future we'll ever have, so use of this principle that stands for acknowledging and accepting both positive and negative change will only make Goshen a better place to live.