

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

PART 1: The Change Game

INTRODUCTION

We all love games, but playing games in relationships is dangerous. Approaching relationships as though someone has to win and someone has to lose is a bad idea. One game we tend to play in our relationships is *The Change Game*. There's nothing more toxic to a relationship than secretly trying to change the other person. It feels awful. It doesn't work. And it will eventually destroy the relationship. The good news is there's a better way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you worked to change something about yourself, large or small. What did you do to try to change? What happened?
2. Has someone ever tried to change you in a relationship? If so, how did you respond? How did it affect the relationship?
3. Read Romans 14:1-13. What person or group of people do you have trouble getting along with? What is it about that person or group you want to change?
4. What risks are involved in accepting a person rather than trying to change him or her?
5. *"The change I want in you should be a cue for something God wants to change in me."* What are some things you tend to want to change in others? What do you think that says about what God may want to change in you?
6. Is there someone in your life that you're trying to change? If so, what can you do to begin to accept that person? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

If God has accepted you, why not offer that kind of acceptance to others? What would it look like if you chose to treat others the way God has treated you? Don't try to change others. Love them. Change happens when you quit trying to make others like you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 14:13