

## **Introduction:**

Sometimes “the things” that helped us get where we are today are the “very things” that keep us from going where we need to go.

## **The Premise:**

The structures that help plants grow, provide stability and boundaries (pots) soon become the limitations of the growth they once provided.

## **The Principle: New wine demands new wine skins.**

Matthew 9:9-17

- The Context = Truth versus Tradition
- The Question = Practice versus Purpose
- The Application = Form must follow Function

## **The Axiom:**

Personal & Corporate growth demands that we re-pot our spiritual plants.

## **What Does This Mean?**

1. God’s Truth never changes.
2. Our methods must always change.
3. Methods / Traditions that once expressed God’s Truth and provided life will eventually be equated with Scripture and nullify the Word of God.

## **EXHIBIT “A” – The early church (Acts 6)**

- A problem arises (verse 1)
- A priority is established (verse 2)
- A paradigm shifts (verse 3-6)
- A power was released (verse 7)

## **EXHIBIT “B” – The growing church (Acts 10-11)**

- A leader’s thinking is challenged (10:9-16)
- A leader obeys despite social pressure and lifelong personal prejudice (10:22-29)
- God affirms the unthinkable (10:44-48)
- The leader is sharply criticized (11:1-3)
- The leader challenges the group’s “old thinking” with the “new wine” of Jesus’ promise (11:15-18)

**What Does This Mean To Us?** Our new vision, new scope, new philosophy and new leadership will require ...

- New structures
- New methods
- New practices

**Application:** Change is the shortest definition of growth. We all want it *and* hate it. The alternative is death.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. We all get “stuck” in our ways and relationships. What area of your life (work, marriage, time for God, friendships, social schedules, or personal fitness) feels stuck?
2. What specific structures, times, or relationships could you re-arrange or approach differently, in order to stimulate change and growth?
3. Why is it so important to be committed to Truth, but be open and willing to change?
4. How can you personally facilitate and promote unity in the face of the changes that must occur at Venture in the coming week / months?