

Creativity without Compromise

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The Goal: Effectively Ministering To People for Christ.

The Control: Not Altering Our Biblical Convictions.

The Conflict: Doing Things Differently and Making Changes.

The Challenge: Developing a First Class Attitude

about Ministry.

Defining Creativity within the Ministry of a Local Church:

1. Taking a fresh look at what we do, why we do it and how we can do it better and more effectively.
2. Thinking outside of the box of tradition for answers to how we can become more effective and productive.
3. Climbing out of the rut of routine to see new views of the ministry landscape.
4. Venturing out into new areas with new materials and new methods to accomplish Biblical mandates.

Jesus is Our Best Example for Creative Ministry:

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created...

John 1:3 All things were made by him...

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created... all things were created by him and for him.

Think of all the innovative things Jesus did in his earthly ministry.

- Described salvation as a birth.
- Instituted baptism to illustrate our new birth and life in Him.
- Organized a new group (the church) to get the gospel to the world.
- He used parables to illustrate his teachings.
- He sent witnesses out two by two.
- He washed the disciples' feet to illustrate servant leadership.
- He instituted the Lord's Supper to perpetuate a spirit of remembrance.
- Everyday elements of life became objects for his teaching.
- The cross became a symbol of his and eventually our commitment.
- Love instead of law became the motivator for obedience.
- He took the ministry global with a world-wide commission.

- Jesus spent over 50% of his time on illustration and application and less time on information and content.
- He criticized the leaders for becoming set in their traditions.
 - Mar 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.
- He is designing and developing a new world for his people to live in for eternity.
- He is author, editor and producer of the greatest literature in the history of the world. (The Bible)

Places Where Creativity Flourishes:

- Worship
- Literature
- Media
- Facilities
- Ministry Themes
- Staff Positions
- Ministry Methodology

Places Where We Get Into Ruts:

- Programs
 - Service Routines, One Visitation Program, Boring Ministries
- Presentations
 - Old Brochures, Black & White Literature, Signage, Poor Audio Quality, Slide Shows...*Flannel Graph in a Video World*
- Preaching
 - Alliteration, Text Oriented vs. Need Oriented, Non-Illustrated, Content Saturated Messages

Things That Choke Creativity:

- Complacency: a willingness to accept mediocrity and a low standard within ministry.
 - Col.3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord...
- Laziness: excusing a low standard out of an unwillingness to put forth the work necessary to make creative changes.
 - 1Co 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one

receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

- **Fear:** an unwillingness to make creative changes out of fear of what man will say.
 - 2 Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- **Poor Leadership:** not making the proper effort to lead people into Biblically appropriate creative change.
 - 1Pe 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Questions:

What can we do that will maintain our doctrinal purity and better accomplish the goal Christ has for us to reach people with the Gospel and Bible truth?

Are we fresh in presenting the Bread of Life each week, or do we let things become stale?

What are we doing in antiquated ways that are yielding negative results?

How Can We Become More Creative In Our Approach to:

- Evangelism & Mission
- Education
- Discipleship
- Ministry Image
- Worship