

THINKING CREATIVELY

We are all creative

God's creativity is already built into our own DNA because we are "made in the image" of God our Creator.

Our job is to release it and put creativity to work.

We must identify the barriers to creativity

The first thing we have to do is to identify the barriers to creativity and start taking them down. 1. One of the barriers is "we've always done it this way" because such an attitude stops people thinking, stops people reflecting, stops people from considering possibilities. 2. Another barrier is routine, people just putting in the time and going through the motions but never really engaging with what they are doing. Mind-deadening routine is the cancer of creativity. 3. Another are organisations that base status on seniority rather than on talent, on years served rather than creativity.

WAKE UP!

We must think critically

Start looking around you and engage your brain! Think critically about what you do and question rules, procedures, policies, methods, paperwork and techniques. Ask, *Is it necessary? Can it be done better?*

Creativity can solve almost any problem and defeat almost any bad habit. Originality overcomes almost anything! A 'hunch' is creativity trying to tell you something.

An environment doesn't "just happen" –it is created by the people who work/live/attend that organisation. People, policies and systems either stoke the fire of creativity or put it out. So, if you are part of an organisation which puts barriers in the way of originality and creativity, it's time to speak out for change, time to pray against, or time to leave.

Remember, insecure leaders feel threatened by creativity, especially when it is suggested that there is a better way of doing things. Not everybody is willing to think creatively and some resent those who do.

Creativity out of a crisis

Creative thinking usually begins in a crisis. Israel's most spectacular victories came in seemingly impossible situations –escaping Pharaoh across the Red Sea, David defeating Goliath, the Battle of Jericho.

Creativity out of stillness

This is why God says, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46 v10). Our Creator can only give us creative ideas if we are willing to come to him and be still before him and waiting until he speaks to us. This will mean interrupting busy diaries to spend time alone with him.

Creativity out of messiness

Creativity can be messy. "Creativity is to allow oneself to make mistakes, Art is knowing which ones to keep!" (Scott Adams) On the way to the best possible solution we will have to entertain some not-so-good solutions first. So if we are a perfectionist or image-conscious or insecure we will need to open up a bit more.

Creativity out of response

Creative thinking requires us to act first in faith. The 10 Lepers were healed "as they journeyed" (Luke 17 v14). At first, as they began to walk to find the Priest, nothing would have happened and they may have doubted but, as they journeyed, they were healed and the re-creative act took place.

Summarised from "Word for Today" by Bob Gass
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