

The Contagion of Creativity

Howard Hendricks

I. What I'm Looking in a Disciplemaker:

A. Committed in three areas:

1. Unreservedly Committed to Jesus Christ.
2. Unreservedly Committed to the Body.
 - i. Concerned about what every member of the body. One of the greatest needs in our generation is a realistic expression of the body – i.e. if one suffers, we all suffered.
3. Unreservedly commitment to the ministry.
 - i. Always aligned with one's gifts.

B. Competent in three areas:

1. Knowledge.
2. Feelings.
 - i. It's beyond knowledge. My problem in Christian experience is not what I know, I know more than I need. I need to know how to feel. The deeper you feel, the deeper the conviction.
3. Consistency.
 - i. You'll never move a person until you think more thoroughly, feel more deeply, and act more consistently. That's why Christ was great. Everything He did was compatible with what He said.

C. Creative.

1. Seeing or expressing new relationships.
2. Changing your way of thinking, feeling, and doing through exploration and experimentation.
3. There's no such thing as faith apart from risk-taking. Creativity takes risk. The people who are most secure in Jesus Christ shouldn't be scared to try new things.
4. There's no one without significant creative potential.
5. Creativity Killers:

i. Parents.

- a. What are you doing to shred your kids' creative potential.
- b. The greatest indictment against any movement is that the kids don't believe what their parents did.

ii. Teachers.

II. Five Values.

1. Develop your creativity to perpetuate the learning process.

- a. To stay alive mentally, you must be creative.
- b. As long as you live you learn, and as long as you learn, you live.
- c. Discipleship is a call to perpetual learning.

2. To meet the growing demands of a changing society and church, you will have to become a creative individuals.

- a. Packaged thinkers will be out of business soon.
- b. We can only be sure of taxes, death, and change.
- c. We don't need people with the answers, we need people with problem-solving skills. It's impossible to predict what will be the problem, so we need to be able to solve it.
- d. A creative individual is a man ahead of his time.
- e. I hope you overcome by God's grace your resistance to change.
- f. Change is the name of the game in Christianity.

3. To infect your communication with a characteristic freshness and vitality.

- a. Truth is not to be bottled, but dispensed, so a communicator's job is to open closed minds, and to keep open minds open. The art of saying things differently.
- b. Your attitude changes your approach.

4. To develop your leadership potential.

- a. The greatest unresolved problem in evangelicalism is top drawer, creative leadership. The average person in our generation is more interested in hearing the gospel, than most of us are interested in telling it.
- b. There is no competition at the top, it's all at the bottom.

- c. Leadership is a developed mental process. There's great shortage of leadership.
- d. In leadership the key is attitude: You must come to think of yourself as a leader or you'll never become one.
- e. A leader always knows where he's going and convinces others to go with him.
- f. You need to develop Christ-confidence, and stop allowing the devil to whip you into shreds. Some of you listen to the devil more than you listen to God.

5. Overhaul your lifestyle:

- a. Most Christians don't live, they merely exist.
- b. Manageable mediocrity – becoming a passive dependant. A passive dependant is never a leader.
- c. As a parent, are you making a passive dependent by doing anything for them that they can do for themselves.
- d. We must ask God to change us, so that we can change society. Live to the hilt as a representative of Jesus Christ!
- e. The only person who is in a position to laugh is a person secure in Christ! A lot of us have been infected by legalism.

III. Five Areas to Develop Creativity:

1. The home (What you honor there will be developed there).

- a. The Hendricks talent theater. Put all the clothes in a barrel for a wardrobe, and let the kids act. The reason the average kids watch television is because there's nothing else going on.
- b. Everyone plans the family member's birthday, Christmas, etc.
- c. Write your own songs and poetry. In our society we run everywhere to buy everything instead of making it.
- d. Read as a family.
- e. Don't be critical! Drop all of your work off on your way home, don't spew it onto your kids. Come home and be a person, not a profession.
- f. Mystery trips – start out driving, not knowing where they were growing up. Work on your vacations as a family! Don't involve ministry.
- g. Develop an evangelistic outreach as a family for the community. Have lost people in your home that you are cultivating as a family.

2. Bible Study

- a. Use the talents and gifts that people have by having them use their gifts to express a passage of scripture. Often times these gifts are lost.
- b. Get people hooked into the Bible to use their creative potential for Christ before they are lost!
- c. It's not just the product, it's the journey people take to produce something for Christ that is important. (i.e. Teenage boy's letter to God that's uses the same theme as Habakkuk, TV program on Habakkuk).

3. Communication

- a. Don't be afraid to use cartoons, especially to express controversial material.

4. Writing

- a. The price of good writing is rewriting (130-160 times for professional work).
- b. Ministry of Multiplication – works fast through the printed page.

5. Lifestyle

- a. Creativity affects everything from you job to you sex life.
- b. Push the barriers of something new and different – say it differently, do it differently so you develop an excitement for living as God's representative on earth.

IV. Closing Prayer