

Creativity in Disciplemaking

Howard Hendricks

I. Background.

- A. The church is the most revolutionary force in the world.
- B. The greatest challenge we face today is to understand the critical nature of creativity.
- C. How can we be related to such a creative God and be so boring?
- D. Your objectives determine your outcomes.
- E. First Priority of Disciplemaking: Unreserved Commitment.

- 1. Commitment to Jesus Christ.
- 2. Commitment to the Word of God.
- 3. Commitment to a lost world.

F. Second Priority: Competence

- 1. Developing people who know something.
 - a. You cannot impart what you do not possess.
 - b. Develop people who know something and Someone.
- 2. Develop people who feel something.
 - a. Too many Christians are passive and unexcited.
 - b. Live with sheer enjoyment of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.
 - c. Moses asked God to help teach us to number the days so we would have wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)
- 3. Developing people who are doing something.

G. Third Priority: Communicating, Growing Person

H. Fourth Priority: Creative

- 1. Resourceful, flexible.
- 2. Thinks outside the box.
- 3. They make the greatest impact on this generation.

II. Three Questions:

A. What will creativity do for your disciple?

1. Perpetuate the learning process.

- a. A disciple is a learner.
- b. Continue to grow in both grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. (II Peter 3:18)
- c. Discipleship is a process, not a program.
- d. The better I know someone, the better I can bring them to full growth.

2. Meet the needs of a changing society.

- a. We are predestined to be changed into the likeness of Christ and this requires massive change. (Romans 8)
- b. We are not preparing people properly for change.
- c. We are so defensive in our approach to life.
- d. We confuse that which is Biblical (fixed) and that which is cultural (flexible).
- e. We are changing the things we should never change but we are not changing the things that need to change.
- f. We need to focus on penetrating our community for Christ instead of building a club for Christians.

3. Infect discipleship with freshness and variety.

- a. "It is easier to entertain than instruct." A.W. Tozer
- b. Tests shows that higher predictability leads to lower impact.
- c. We need to project the image that we are fully alive in Jesus Christ.
- d. Could our lack of vitality be one of the reasons the church has difficulty attracting young people to invest their lives for Christ?

4. Overhaul your life. (John 10:10)

- a. Our cultural focus on retirement is not the path to life – most people die within two to six years after their retirement.
- b. Develop people not like you but like Jesus Christ.

B. What do we know for sure about creativity?

1. There is no one without significant creative potential.
2. Conditioning can kill creativity.
 - a. Our creativity is buried under layers of conditioning from:
 1. Parents.
 2. Teachers.
 3. Television.
 - i. Ruins ability to read.
 - ii. Ruins ability to think – leads to passivity in our churches.
 - iii. Ruins ability to be creative.
3. Conditioning process can be reversed.
 - a. This requires effort.
 - b. Being creative is hard work.
 - c. Creative people do what non-creative people refuse to do.
4. Creativity must become a lifestyle.
 - a. You are either creative in all of your life or none of it.

C. How do we develop creativity?

1. Experience provides fuel for ideas.
 - a. The broader our exposure, the greater our potential for creativity.
2. Problem solving.
 - a. Develop solutions to the problems you face.
 - b. The more problems you solve the more creative you become.
3. Hobbies (fine arts, music, drama).
 - a. The most creative people are in the arts.
 - b. Attend the symphony.

4. Reading.

- a. Read wisely and widely.
- b. Don't just read the party line.
- c. The 40/20 Rule: For every hour you read, spend forty minutes reading the text and twenty minutes reflecting on the text.
- d. If you don't process what you read, it won't stick.
- e. "The Question of God" by Dr. Nicholi Armand.

5. Writing.

- a. Keep a journal.

6. Ask questions.

- a. Develop overwhelming curiosity.

7. Expose yourself to creative people.