

The Reformation Continues: Leading Faithful Change

Tod Bolsinger, PhD. Fuller Seminery

*Big Ideas

- We were trained for a different context.
- The fading of Christendom requires that we learn to lead all over again.
- Leading in uncharted territory *requires learning* and *results in loss*.

Discussion

- Inspire. (!) What stands out positively so far and why?
- Inquire. (?) What questions have been raised?
- Irk. (#&*!) What has rubbed you wrong or created dissonance?
- ■Require. (△) What change(s) seem to be demanded of you?

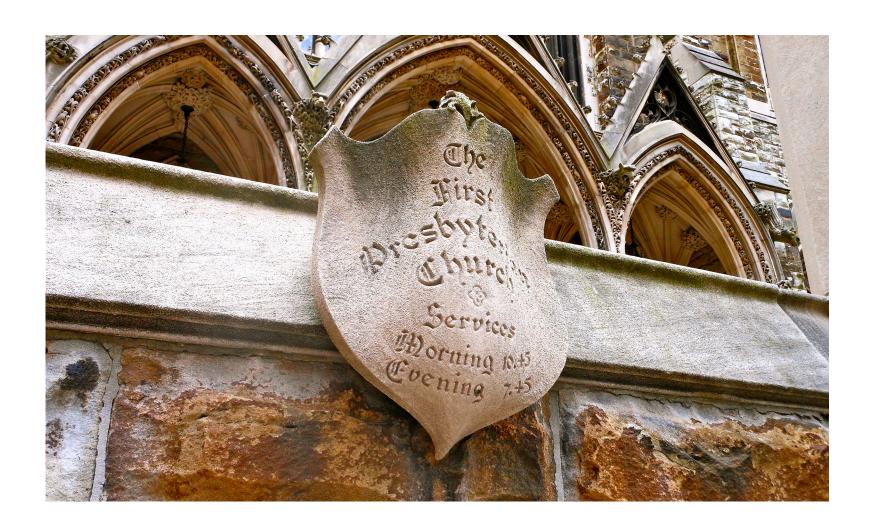
Conversations...

What is one challenge in your church that you just can't get traction on? What is one issue that no matter how hard you work on it, keeps coming back?

The Fundamental Task of Leadership

distinguish between what needs to be preserved and what needs to change....

Preserve Change

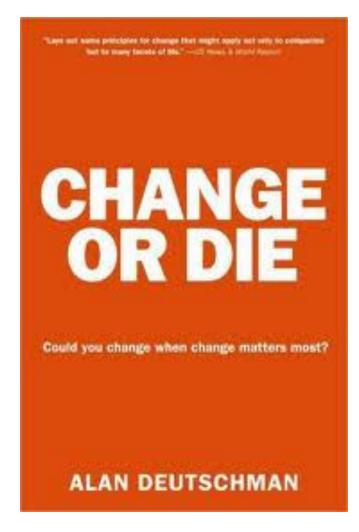


The Fundamental Task of Leadership

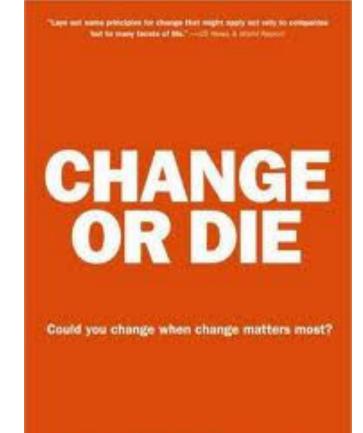
distinguish between what needs to be preserved and what needs to change....

Preserve Change





When given a choice...



ALAN DEUTSCHMAN

When given a choice...

90% die.

What doesn't produce change...

- ■Fear
- ■Facts
- ■Force

What brings change...

- ■Relate (new communities)
- ■Repeat (new practices)
- ■Reframe (new ways of thinking)
 - "Shifting"

Radical (Not "tweaking!")

If not, preaching, program, or pastoral care, then what?

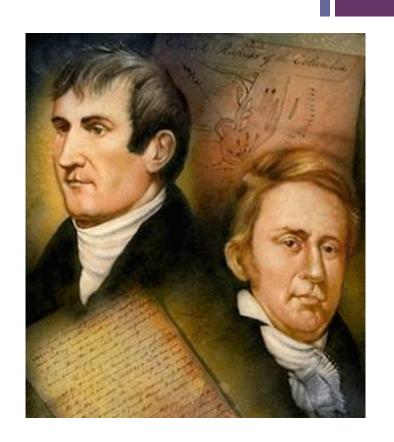
Practices...

(Relate, Repeat...)

Reframe: Corps of Discovery

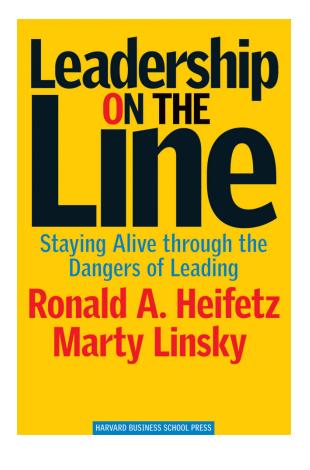
- From discovering of water route to discovery of a whole continent.
- "I reflected that I had yet done but little, very little indeed, to further the happiness of the human race, or to advance the information of the succeeding generation . . . and resolved in the future . . . to live for mankind, as I have heretofore lived for myself."

Lewis on his 31st birthday.





Reframing Problems



Technical Problems

VS.

Adaptive Challenges

Identifying Adaptive Challenges

- Require <u>learning</u>
- ■Result in facing loss
- ■Reveal "gaps" in behavior, values, or strategies that must be negotiated. ("radical")

Conversations...

What is one challenge in your church that you just can't get traction on? What is one issue that no matter how hard you work on it, keeps coming back?

Technical vs. Adaptive

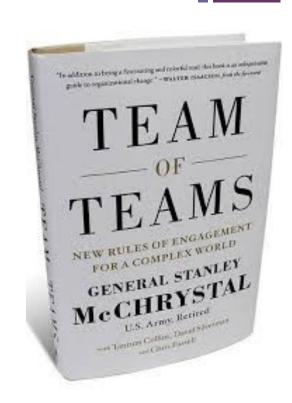
■ "Application of current knowledge, skills and tools to resolve a situation."

"Cannot be solved with one's existing knowledge, skills and tools, requiring people to make a shift in values, expectations, attitudes or habits of behavior."

"Systemic problems with no clear answers."

"Adaptability is the key attribute of leadership today."

Gen. Stanley McChrystal

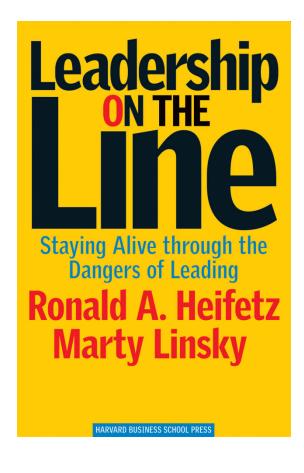


Key Adaptive Principle #1

■People don't resist change they resist *loss*.



"Get beyond Win-Win"



"Win-win is lose-lose."

"Adaptive change is an inherently conservative process."

Ronald Heifetz

Key Adaptive Principle #2

For change to last it must be a healthy adaptation of the "DNA" of the group.

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"Tell me a story..."

+ Tell a story from your church's history...

- ...about a hero.
- ...about a cherished moment that is retold over and over again.
- ...one that says, "This is what we are really all about."
-one that says, "This was the moment when I was most proud of us".
-one that says, "This was when I knew I had found my people."



Our Inspiring 9/11 Story

When The Communion Table was Destroyed

The Picture that Rebuilt our Church



First Sunday School Held on Beach at San Clemente

Reflecting on the story.

- What are the recurring themes of these stories?
- What do these stories tell us about ourselves?
- What are the core values (not aspired values!) that these stories express?

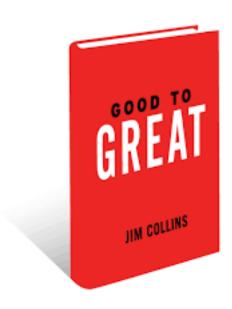
Key Adaptive Principle

For change to last it must be be a healthy adaptation of the "DNA" of the group.

- Work with those who are the healthiest expressions of the group DNA.
- "Adapt" to the maturing and motivated.

Once you have determined what will never change, you must then be prepared to change everything else.

Jim Collins



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Revisiting the Maine Methodists...

*Revisiting the Maine Methodists

- Don't focus on whether you are dying, focus on God's mission and your transformation.
- Focus on the mountains ahead, not the rivers behind.
- Focus on continually learning, not what you have already mastered.
- Focus on experimenting your way into your future without losing your core values.

