

Intuitive Leadership Conference

Session Two: Entering Narrative - Embracing the Power of Story

"I think one of the greatest things we're struggling with in the church is that we are facing an extreme crisis of imagination." -- Tim thinks it's the biggest issue.

imagination -- the faculty or action of forming new ideas, images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses.

our imagination has become domesticated -- to take what is wild and make it tame. If the leadership of our church has allowed their imaginations to be domesticated, then it's

The Domestication of Imagination

1. *modern Enlightenment epistemology*

- a. truth & knowledge are universal (truth and knowledge are EXACTLY the same everyone -- truth & knowledge are arrived at by the CORRECT application of reason)
- b. it's objective -- truth & knowledge can be held without bias
- c. it is certain -- it can be known without doubt

(and so, ministry becomes the quest to find the "right" model that we can copy and implement -- and it makes churches dependent upon the "expert" who is "out there" and can tell us how to do things instead of imbedding in the community and figuring out the community. It's the "franchise" mentality.)

2. *ministry titillation* -- ministry is a "bag of tricks"

and so, even the emerging church simply becomes another method of "church growth" to be used up and eventually discarded when it's no longer "it" -- so we throw out candles and experiential worship and call it 'emergent'

we live in a culture that is all about duplication -- see something...copy it.

3. *isolation that we feel in individual churches*

the logic of the protestant reformation is that every time we disagree we have to break fellowship, because the worst thing you can do in the western church is believe wrongly.

effectively, you punish imagination

The most acceptable form of idolatry in the church today is MINISTRY! We are obsessed with running ministries, instead of being in love with seeking after God. According to Jesus, ministry, beautiful architecture, etc. is not to be the goal. The primary question for us should be, "what does it mean to abide?" (John 15:1-8) Ministry is the byproduct of that pursuit!

Session Two: continued

What does it look like in your environment to deeply engage with your community... trusting God with the results -- or lack of results?

“..the visible church is not to be the bearer of Christ’s message; but to be the message...” -- Stanley Hauerwas