

Creativity

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 30th August 2009

Read Gen 1

Intro

- Same old note playing over and over again- vary the note. Chord=improvement- vary the chord. Our lives- when something works we can repeat it easily without trying/thinking.
- Sing a *new* song to the Lord'- principle can be applied to any area of our lives that has become 'samey'. From the pulpit: "Will those of you who know my sermon illustrations by heart please refrain from repeating them with me out loud."

1. God is creative Gen 1:1

- Creation is God's masterpiece- for we are God's masterpiece (Eph 2:10). Master painter- nebulae (hubble telescope google earth), master sculptor- design of man and animals and nature.
- Fibonacci sequence & Golden mean- 1:1.618. Found in seashells, pinecones, sunflowers, hurricanes, embryos in the womb, spiral galaxies, DNA, human body (see examples).
- Learn to gaze in wonder at God's creation & praise Him -'what is this life if full of care..'. Words of How Great Thou Art or George Robinson:
*Heav'n above is softer blue, Earth around is sweeter green!
Something lives in every hue Christless eyes have never seen;
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow, flowers with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know, as now I know, I am His, and He is mine.
Since I know, as now I know, I am His, and He is mine.*
- Train your senses to appreciate what is before them and give God praise- the colour of shadows, the smell after the rain, the feel of grass, the taste of spices.

2. God has made you to be creative Gen 1:26.

- God-creator- man his image. Many things- morally, spiritually, socially, physically (Jesus appeared as a man), rulership etc. Surely it must include God's love of creativity. Son of=shares characteristics. The new Jerusalem=God's people Rev 21 prepared as a bride for husband- jewels- creative ways church glorifies God. High Priest breastplate- precious stones-. Church=harmony of diversity- Eph 3:10- manifold (multicoloured, much-varied) wisdom of God
- Children- imaginative (Simeon's play), but we can lose it as we get older- learn to imagine again. God saw (imagined) something which wasn't there (Hebrews 11, verse 3), believe it could be done ('by faith'), desired it ('saw that it was good') and spoke it into being ('let there be'). We can apply this same principle to any area in life.- "I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."- Albert Einstein (1879-1955), physicist
- Deal with discouragements- criticism or people laughing at you- "Creativity is so delicate a flower that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud. Any of us will put out more and better ideas if our efforts are appreciated."- Alexander F. Osborn (1888 - 1966), advertising executive. Faith- exercise it. By faith God made the world- creativity takes faith- believe beliefs, doubt doubts

3. We all create in different ways- Gen 1:12- 'each according to their kind'

- God=God variety. Just as there are various 'kinds' in the animal and plant kingdom

so within humankind there is variation even within our 'kind'. We all create in different ways- find out yours. "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."- Herman Melville (1819 - 1891), writer.

Woman who cut off the edges of her Sunday Roast & students who imitated their teacher's style including hair flick.

- Too easy to go along with familiar- passivity-come against it. Many ways to communicate a message. Prophets often acted out words: Jeremiah-smashed jar (Jer 19:1,10); wore yoke (Jer 27:2); buried stones (Jer 43:9); tied scroll to stone & threw in Euphrates (Jer 51:64). Ezekiel- publicly besieged a map of the city (Ez 4:1-13); cut hair & beard, weighed, burned, cut up & threw to wind (Ez 5:1-4); packed bags as sign for exile (Ez 12:3); went around groaning (Ez 21:6); boiled pot of meat as a sign (Ez 24:1-14); gets a chain as sign (Ez 27:23); Isaiah- went around naked & barefoot 3 yrs (Is 20:2-4); Hosea marries a prostitute (Hos 1:2); Agabus uses belt on Paul (Acts 21:10)
- Prophetic sensitivity to Spirit- ways God speaks through senses+ objects. Prophetic art-modern art. Different ways to bring a prophecy- prophetic actions. Picture-draw it. Ask God for way to bring. The chief buyer for a thriving company was particularly inaccessible to salespeople. You didn't call him. He called you. On several occasions when salespeople managed to get into his office, they were tossed out. One saleswoman finally broke through his defenses. She sent him a homing pigeon with her card attached to one leg. On the card she had written, "If you want to know more about our product, just throw our representative out the window."
- Worship- Music styles. 1922 scales possible from 12 notes in music. Time signatures- tend to be 4/4 or 3/4.-african polyrhythms. Hand drums. Kneeling, bowing, clapping, whistling, shouting, cheering. Sing new song, do something new.
- Teaching-parables-stories with meaning, proverbs
- Evangelistic-creative ways to show God's love- baking a cake, note, hug, phone call, email, text.

4. Creativity comes by the Spirit of God. Gen 1:2.

- Hovering=used of a bird brooding over it's young. God is birthing, incubating creativity within His people. The anointing releases a flow of God's creativity.
- There are specific anointed creative gifts waiting to emerge in the Church- Ex 35:30-36:1. Bezaliel & Oholiab. God's Spirit empowered them. Know same with gifts-impartment.
- There are things God wants to communicate that can ONLY happen in way He intends when the arts are used- a picture paints a thousand words- photo of the falling man in 911- Catholic cross in Yateley spoke to me before salvation.
- Reformation. Me at life drawing-rejoicing+also Steve+me painting Usk-laughing.
- Bards- what they were in Wales etc. Wales destiny in God. Welsh creativity to be part of the Welsh fire. Eisteddfods
- Anointing does not mean disorder. Wund Curve. Genesis=Order out of chaos ('God divided, separatedx3) but there was variety rather than bland order ('according to it's kind'). There is harmony when God leads and people don't get in the way.
- Anointing does not mean lack of hard work. Skill= grit and hard work as well as inspiration. So called Christian music and art- go and learn your trade first. Playing an instrument. Spirit of David- psalms, making instruments, appointing teams. Skilled playing. Solomon- proverbs, poetry, song of songs. King Hiram of Tyre. Practise- skill only comes with practise. Prophetic playing on instruments, hearing God etc.
- Eph 5:18-19 '...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms & hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord'

Application- prayer for infilling of Spirit and worship & bring something new and spontaneous. Decide to be creative in all areas of life and do it.