

**Eight Ways to Revive the Church,
Part 2:
Emotion, Conversion, and
Boldness in Leadership**

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People are not brains on sticks

Using emotions is NOT manipulation, its called reality.

“Were it not for the possibility of sensing body states that are inherently ordained to be painful or pleasurable, there would be no suffering or bliss, no longing or mercy, no tragedy or glory in the human condition.”

Antonio Damasio, *Descartes' Error*

People are not brains on sticks

Or to put it poetically as Damasio does,

“The soul breathes through the
body.”



To convert to Christ

Touch the bodily dispositions...

With the overwhelming love
and desire for Christ... and
Christ's kingdom... domination
free zone of love and justice...

Habitus and field—Fancy Theory, Pierre Bourdieu

Habitus:

- # Socialized subjectivity, socially constructed dispositions; socially made body
- # Our bodies think us
- # We only understand our desires after our body acts

Fields:

- # Magnetizing spaces, drawing and spacing us according to certain, mostly unconscious, rules of domination and subordination
- # Fields create, shape, and produce habitus, socially constructed desires

Fields: Reality is relational

Real is the relational

Nothing is fully inside (agent, habitus)

or fully outside (field, structure)

Both interact and produce one another

We are produced by this interaction
of field and habitus, structure and
agency

Becoming a subject: a moral being

#When one consciously masters
the relation to their social
dispositions with.....

#Moral learners--

Conversion

- # Challenge socially constructed dispositions
- # Provide new human network
- # Create vision that confirms the new desires
- # Affirm announce over and over again the 'truth' of this new reality, in a new reality

People are not brains on sticks

If we want to convert people, we have impact people's emotions, social dispositions...

Lead them to fall in love with Jesus' domination free zone... the church of love and justice



Eight Ways to Revitalize Church:

Seek Bold Leaders

- # Leaders should demand growth, want growth
- # “Felt a call to ministry”
- # Honesty, transparency, authenticity
- # Don't wait, act.... take risks
- # Set free the power of lay people



Eight Ways to Revitalize Church: **The Bible is Real**

- # Read Genesis: Why is that Book a classic, because it is so real!!
- # Murder, extortion, envy, incest, adultery..
- # Don't water it down, what makes book great is that it opens us to the full spectrum of humanity and its says,
- # Despite it all God wants to heal and save and use us!!! But only when we are
REAL....



Eight Ways to Revitalize Church:

Use Technology

- # Kids know technology, they love the visual
- # Use the genius of your kids/adults who know media to express the sermon in images/visuals!!!



Eight Ways to Revitalize Church:

Create Beauty

THE LOST ART OF RELIGIOUS HUMANISM

THE RENAISSANCE, MOZART, BACH

BEAUTY EXPRESSES THE SPIRIT IN
IMAGES, SOUND, AND
MOVEMENT



Eight Ways to Revitalize Church:

Be Prophetic

- # Occasionally, call the sin what it is:
 - # The U.S. tortured, our leaders committed war crimes... speak out, this should NOT stand!!!
 - # One small caution.....

Eight Ways to Revitalize Church: **Be Demanding**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Lutheran theologian fought Hitler:

Wrote, in *Cost of Discipleship*,

“If Christ calls you he calls you to come and die.”

Eight Ways to Revitalize Church: **Be Ambitious**

- # STOP APOLOGIZING!!!!!!!
- # Why not dream big
 - # Start an affordable housing enterprise
 - # Demand the end of homelessness!!!!
 - # Quadruple the size of your church!!!!
 - # Mission:
 - # Introduce God of Love and Justice to the Southwest Region!!!!

Eight Ways to Revitalize Church: **Angels We Have Heard on High!**

#Don't be afraid

#Don't be afraid

#Don't be afraid



Religiously Revived:

Live into the joyous,
abundant spirit of God,
tasting the 'living water'
that never runs out, and
serving others

