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Q&A Forum - Review

People Afraid of New Ideas

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Greetings fellow Q&Aers, and Happy New Year,

I apologize for letting the list be quiet for so long. I have been busy orienting our new office manager. I would like to let you know that Lisa Vieira is now with us and learning to "hold down the fort." She is an excellent addition to our staff and is already beginning to keep me on track :)

We welcome the following new list members - Tracey, Marge, Nancy, Lisa, Susan and Roseann.

While the list was quiet, there was not an absence of "warm fuzzy stuff" as you will see in this q&a.

Our web site has been tweaked and Mike, our webmaster assures me all is running as it should. We are looking at some improvements and some possible upgrades and would welcome your ideas of what you would like to see/experience there.

I would like you to be aware that I will be conducting a Goal Setting and Time Management Workshop here in Stratford on Saturday Feb 16, 2002 along with a colleague of mine from BNI, my networking group. Susan Lovallo, a professional organizer with Clutter Solutions will be doing the time management piece. The workshop will run from 9 am-4 pm and will cost \$100. Please email me back if you are interested & I will get you details. In a few days I hope to have a flyer to email to the entire list.

Now to the question and answer - then a quote and, the bonuses!!

Q: Why are people afraid of new ideas? It's the old ones that should worry them.

A: I am not sure if this question was sent as a philosophical one or if there is something behind it; I will address it as best I can. Most people are resistant to new ideas - feeling "safe" in their comfort zone. Security provides a little to hold onto in the presence of constant change. Alvin Toffler in his book Future Shock (in the 1960s) detailed how fast things are changing and how much we resist them. Perhaps we could learn to just go with the flow - allow things around us, over which we have no control, to change, and to change the things that we can (sound familiar to any of you 12-steppers?). That might make it easier, but the problem, I am told, is that things that change around us, often have an impact on us. Often we tend to see the negative side of the impact - we may need to train ourselves to look for the positive in the change, the upside, the proverbial "manure into fertilizer" routine. I am sure that change and new ideas are particularly problematic for those who are depressed or anxious. The depressed often feel powerless already and, not being motivated to change themselves, often feel victims to the changes going around them. While this perception may not be entirely accurate, it will often be hard to convince them otherwise. Those who are anxious are usually reacting to changes and their projections of what might additional changes could occur, and how it might impact on them in the future. They could benefit from staying in the present and focusing on what they can change in themselves as well as accepting what they are powerless over. I will leave this q&a with one word for you to reflect upon: "resiliency." Peace, John

QUOTE: "If your success is not on your own terms, if it looks good to the world but does not feel good in your heart, it is not success at all." - Anna Quindlen

A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy. "Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "these puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. "I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle, "Here, Dolly!" he called.

Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur.

The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse. Slowly another little ball appeared; this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up....

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he

revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe.

Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

The world is full of people who need someone who understands. Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before my Father." Not ashamed? Pass this on . . . only if you mean it. Yes, I do love God. He is my source of existence and my Savior. He keeps me functioning each and everyday. Without Him, I will be nothing. Without Him, I am nothing but with Him I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me. Phil 4:13

CHURCH STORIES

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Bishop said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "The flight to Egypt," said Kyle. "I see ... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said. "But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius-the Pilot."

The Sunday school teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

A college drama group presented a play in which one character would stand on a trapdoor and announce, "I descend into hell!" A stagehand below would then pull a rope, the trapdoor would open, and the character would plunge through. The play was well received. When the actor playing the part became ill, another actor who was quite overweight took his place. When the new actor announced, "I descend into hell!" the stagehand pulled the rope, and the actor began his plunge, but became hopelessly stuck. No amount of tugging on the rope could make him descend. One student in the balcony jumped up and yelled: "Hallelujah! Hell is full!"

Pastor Dave Charlton tells us, "After a worship service at First Baptist Church in Newcastle, Kentucky, a mother with a fidgety seven-year-old boy told me how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet. About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, 'If you don't be quiet, Pastor Charlton is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!' It worked."

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We wish you peace in who you are and in all that you do!

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