

Worldview 2007 and Beyond

Office Lighthouse Discussion Materials

Worldview 2007 and Beyond

Chapter 1 - Rapid Change

“Today’s world is changing so rapidly that the first 25 years of the new millennium will render the emerging society unrecognizable to most of us now living. Our civilization is undergoing major restructuring in the ways we govern ourselves, educate our children and create wealth. Coupled with this are epochal changes as the nation states of the world evolve from agricultural – to industrial – to informational societies. The revolution of the new economy has created a world of fierce competition where a product, a company or a person can become obsolete overnight.” (Leadership Next by Eddie Gibbs)

Comment on the above.

Discussion questions:

- 1) How do you feel about change? Is it easy or hard for you?
- 2) What are some of the changes you are seeing in the world (Macro)?
- 3) What are some of the changes you are dealing with in your own world (Micro)?
- 4) What worries you about the future?
- 5) How is change affecting your work?
- 6) “You do not know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” (The Bible) What is a healthy attitude when dealing with the pressure and uncertainty of a rapidly changing world?

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Chapter 2 - Workplace Change

In today's workplace, Americans of all ages are changing jobs more frequently. According to the U. S. Department of Labor, the youngest Baby Boomers (ages 42-49) have, on average, held more than 10 different jobs during their careers. Changing jobs can bring new opportunities – but also new challenges.

Comment on the above.

Discussion questions:

- 1) How many jobs have you held in your career? What motivated you to change jobs?
- 2) Do you have an opinion on why people are changing jobs so often?
- 3) Is the competition of today's global economy affected your work place? How so?
- 4) Technology accelerates productivity. How are you using technology? What new technology do you see in the future for your workplace?
- 5) "Man plans his way but God guides his steps." (The Bible) How might this idea help you to deal with today's rapid changes?
- 6) A businessman comments that "I get my current technical information off the blog web sites; by the time new information gets into print it's outdated." How do you feel about keeping up with the rapid growth, we see today, of new information via the internet?

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Chapter 3 - Creativity

“In medicine it is called the ‘septic focus’, the tendency to look at a problem in isolation from its context. Solving a problem by causing another is no solution at all. The septic focus is evident in business and education every day.

There is a paradox: throughout the world, companies and organizations are trying to compete in a world of economic and technological change that is moving faster than ever. As the axis shifts towards intellectual labor and services, they urgently need people who are creative, innovative and flexible. Too often they can’t find them. “(Out of Our Minds/Learning to be Creative ,Ken Robinson)

Comment on the above.

Discussion Questions:

The following **tensions** are common in the 2007 culture and require creative solutions.

1. Caring for people yet seeking profit
2. Humility and the drive for success
3. Ethics, justice and the misuse of authority
4. Family, business and social responsibilities
5. Upholding moral values in a corrupt environment
6. Personal drives versus corporate demands

Which of these **tensions** do you currently feel?

Add other tensions which are part of your current reality.

What have you tried to do to resolve ... or manage ... these **tensions**? What works best?

How might the following quote from The Bible help you be creative with the above **tensions**?
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

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Chapter 4 - Rest

Rest: Ceasing from work...peace, ease or refreshment...relief or freedom from disturbance...mental or emotional serenity.

“Americans are richer than ever before, making money even faster than they can spend it, yet we are caught up in what I call the Wealth Paradox. This paradox is based on two faulty assumptions and two corresponding realities:

1. Assumption: When you accumulate money; you will enjoy greater rest, freedom and satisfaction.
Reality: Accumulation of wealth complicates life.

2. Assumption: When you accumulate money, you will have freedom from fear.
Reality: Accumulation of wealth brings a new fear: the fear of losing what you have. (Ron Blue ,Generous Living)

Comment on the above.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In your mind is money your answer to rest in the complex fast paced life of 2007? Why or why not.
- 2) Do you feel guilty when you relax? Explain your feelings.
- 3) What are the marks of a good leisure life?
- 4) Why do you think our culture is so fixated on work? And why do we reward the workaholic?
- 5) “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (The Bible) How might the concept bring rest in today’s culture?
- 6) How do you plan to use your vacations?

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Chapter 5 - The Internet

We are living in exponential times; 2.7 billion searches are performed on google.com each month. 47 million laptops were shipped world wide in 2006. The number of text messages sent and received every day exceeds the population of the planet. The amount of new technical information today is doubling every 2 years. In 2006 over 106 million people were registered users of “my space”.

Comment on the above.

Discussion questions:

- 1) How is the internet impacting you personally and professionally?
- 2) To whom did you address your questions before Google (BG)?
- 3) Is the internet simplifying or complicating your life and how do you feel about the changes?
- 4) Do you trust the information you are receiving on the internet? Why or why not.
- 5) The Biblical figure Paul observed, “They are always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”. How can we know what information is true and what is false?
- 6) What do you plan to do to leverage the internet for information and develop your relationships?

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Chapter 6 - Ambiguity

“The information age is characterized by ambiguity. On the one hand globalization highlights the mega trends affecting our world through economic and religious power blocks, resulting in a clash of civilizations. Another factor is the emergence of communication networks, some of which are controlled by centralized media channels such as CNN or Al Jazeera, while others are decentralized and unregulated, such as the Internet. On the one hand large institutions, such as multinational companies and the militaries of Western nations, wield enormous power. On the other hand, networks of terrorist cells grab global attention and inflict significant damage, and small companies each with a handful of employees create 80 percent of the new jobs in North America and Europe.” (Leadership Next, Eddie Gibbs)

Comment on the above.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Ambiguity – doubtfulness or uncertainty. Are you experiencing ambiguity? How so?
- 2) Do you keep up with current events via the media? How does the ambiguity of different source affect you?
- 3) It seems that each new day brings reports of terrorist activity. How are you feeling about your personal security? In your opinion is there a solution?
- 4) “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise.” (The Bible) In light of today’s ambiguity does this statement make any sense to you? How so?
- 5) Today are you more or less secure, in what you need to be sure of, than you were 5 years ago? Why?
- 6) Are you doing business with large institutions or multinational companies or small businesses? How is this working for you?