

Ecclesiastes 7:13 Consider the work of God: for who can make *that* straight, which he hath made crooked?

The phrase “crossing the Rubicon” is an idiom that means “passing a point of no return.” Its meaning comes from an allusion to the illegal but audacious crossing of the river Rubicon by Julius Caesar while commander of his troops in early 49 BC. According to Suetonius, after immediately crossing the river, Caesar uttered the famous phrase *alea iacta est* (“the die has been cast”). The phrase “crossing the Rubicon” has survived to refer to any individual or group committing itself to a risky or revolutionary course of action, similar to the modern phrase “passing the point of no return.”

More from some socially scientific views:

Terms to be familiar with. They define a slow but constant change that collides with an unexpectedly sudden or punctuated event.

- 1) Punctuated Equilibrium
- 2) Emerging Leadership

Punctuated Equilibrium is revealed in a person who is someone who never is completely settled on a concrete or absolute foundation of convictions. A code of unchanging moral absolutes is too restrictive for them. They must allow themselves the flexibility to change as things around them evolve. That type of attitude historically leads to a change more in step with cultural alignment rather than based on any unmovable spiritual principles. Their moral codes or even doctrinal convictions, which normally should be in a refuge of unchanging stability, are always in slow but incrementally changing type of movements, depending on their environment.

They must constantly be willing to adapt to the cultural flow. They essentially float along for years, perhaps even longer unnoticed, depending on their environment. As long as there are no sudden environmental interruptions, they can appear to be stabilized. However, their spiritual equilibrium, due to the lack of moral absolutes, will then be challenged, and either the strength or weakness of it revealed when a radical event affecting their environment occurs. This sudden unexpected radical changing event is defined as a “punctuated event.”

Timing becomes paramount. This unforeseen event that merges with their ever-changing moral attitudes expeditiously produces a newly reformed and often unrecognizable man. Thus the term “punctuated equilibrium.” It is a sudden but radical event that collides with the unnoticed yet ongoing evolutionary moral change that complements their ever-changing doctrinal convictions. The unnoticed years of methodical and incognito drifting need an abrupt radical event to reveal that the individual had no foundation of core convictions or moral absolutes, establishing and settling them in one place, to begin with.

Emerging Leadership is the result of this sudden change in their environment. Ever emerging but never fulfilled or complete in moral attitude development. This sudden radical environmental change determines what the newly developed person will ultimately become. All of the unsettled years of slow but constant floating around unnoticed without a settledness or without a firm foundation of principles and convictions to stand on are now colliding with a sudden change of environment, producing a new paradigm shift in their ever-changing convictions. They become “new again.” They take on yet a more merging position with their new environment. They essentially and conveniently blend their newfound convictions with their newly discovered surroundings.

This process is never-ending. It is also a reflective attribute of the “Emerging Church” movement that has fostered the “seeker-friendly” social gospel approach we now witness in many Pentecostal venues today. Religious venues are masquerading as Apostolic churches. They are intoxicated on the gospel message at the expense of disciplining men. The gospel message is indeed all-embracing, while doctrine divides. Jesus’ commands in Matthew 28:19-21 were to make disciples out of men, not simply convert them. Discipleship is the consummation of our conversion experience. For many, consequently, the Book of Acts is celebrated as the highest achievement of salvation, while the epistles are glossed over and incarcerated in the prisons of personal convictions.

These wandering stars are never truly settled—only repositioned. This vicious process is a residual cycle without remedy due to the constant and often unnoticed permanent state of slowly changing. One never arrives at any personal moral conclusions or unmovable convictions other than they are consistently open to new changes whenever cultural change begins to unfold. They depend strongly on their ever-changing environment to dictate their latest convictions. They refuse to be “boxed in.” They are willingly complicit to change as needed despite any past positions they may have assumed were steadfast. Ever learning but never coming to the knowledge... or what can be defined as “emerging leadership.”

They, in effect, become a solution searching for a problem and constantly emerging and assuming it to be maturing. Maturation, however, is built upon firm foundations that are absolute and unchanging. The fact they are in a slow but constant state of movement by remaining “flexible” indicates that they are in an unstable circular pattern of thinking without a vertical posture toward higher principles. This emerging lifestyle which is incumbent upon or accountable unto cultural moorings, leads to a downward spiral on every level.

Words from the wise man...

Proverbs 24:21 My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: *and* meddle not with them that are given to change.

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