

SCSBC Leaders Conference

November 4, 2017



Telos

**Rediscovering
Christian Imagination**

**'You can't trust your eyes when
your imagination is out of focus.'**

Children and Imagination

G. K Chesterton We have sinned and grown old. Our Father is younger than we.
John Lennon **'Imagine'**
Graham Greene **'The Power and the Glory'**
Frank Borman **Apollo 1**
Jeremy Corbyn **'This is the age of imagination'**

*'Our best universities are great at teaching us to think, reason, argue,
analyze, critique and so on, but they're not good at teaching us imagination.'*
(Os Guinness)

The Enlightenment Factor

The Entertainment Factor

Moses Hebrews 11:27 Seeing the Invisible

Jesus John 1:14 Word made Flesh Bread & Wine

*'From such things we....may well begin to suspect that this physical
world is in fact shot through and through with spiritual realities.'* (J. B. Phillips)

Paul Ephesians 3:20 **'more than you can...imagine'**

**Imagination is our intellect's partner.
It is neither against reality nor an enemy of truth.**

Faith is an act of imagination: hoping for a reality that contradicts our experience.

'The poor in spirit...theirs is the kingdom of heaven'.

'The meek...will inherit the earth.'

If reason changes our minds, imagination changes our hopes.

What it is not!

Imagination is not making things up that aren't or cannot be real or true.

What it is!

'Imaging realities perceived through reflective faith.'

A Caution ***'Without the Bible the remembered Christ becomes the imagined Christ, shaped by the religiosity and unconscious desires of his worshippers.'***

(James Smart: 'The Strange Silence of the Bible in the Church' 1970)

A Call **The book of 'Revelation' is the vision we are meant to see!**

1:1 The **revelation** from Jesus...which God gave to **show** his servants

1:2 John testifies to **everything he saw**.

1:7 **Look**, he is coming with the cloud...**every eye** will **see** him

1:11 Write...**what you see**.

1:12 I turned to **see the voice**.'

John *'writes of heaven and things to come, that is, **of a realm which has no shape at all but that which the images give it.**'* (Austin Farrer: Rebirth of Images)

Van Gogh

*'The Bible's customary way of expressing truth is the story, poem, vision...**all products of the imagination.**'* (Leyland Ryken)

We do not need Revelation to get more information.

We need revelation to revive our imagination.

'See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.' (5:5)

'Look, I am making everything new. These words are trustworthy and true.' (21:5)

What kind of person **wants** to rediscover Christian Imagination?

*'John, your **brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and the patient endurance that are ours in Jesus.**'* (Revelation 1:10)

What kind of person receives this vision?

**Those 'in the Spirit' – On Patmos. (1:10). Before God's Throne. (4:10)
In the Desert. (17:3) On a Mountain. (21:10)**

What impedes the development of Christian Imagination?

Eye Injuries

A wrong view of God, of life, of work, of ourselves, and of others.

Obstruction – Divergence – Sunburn – Wrong fitted lenses.

**Obstruction – Cataract: Sin within causes God's light to be repelled.
Hidden sin or a sin we are holding on to.
'Cleanse me from these hidden faults.' (Psalm 19:12)**

**Divergence – Cross eyed: When beliefs and behavior don't match.
Inconsistency – 'double minded.' (James 1:8)**

**Sunburn – too much light: Such that we don't live what we learn.
What we know is not obeyed into growth.
'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our
Lord Jesus Christ.' (2 Peter 3:18)**

**Wrong fitting glasses: Trying to live up to another's expectations.
Trying to please man and not God.
'If I were still trying to please men,
I would not be a servant of Christ.' (Gal 1:10)**

These prevent us seeing our work well and imagining God's new world.

**Have you a Christian imagination - for life, leadership and learning?
Who or what might you need to re-imagine?**

DAPMID

Default Alternative Plus Minus Insight Decision
A Reimaging Method for your Vision & Mission

	Plus	Minus
Default		
Alternative		
Insights		
Decision		

Don't just laminate it. Live it!