



Creative Tensions Inherent within Contemporary Ministry

Dr Adrian Turner

DMin(MST); BMin(Tabor)

Contact: aturner@compassion.com.au

Abstract

This paper will explore the creative tensions that inherently exist at the interface between the biblical revelation of a righteous and holy God and the lived reality of humanity created in his image, who are called to collaborate with God in his redemptive mission of personal, communal, and global reconciliation and transformation.

We will trace the creatively tensile nature of the kingdom of God as experienced on earth, particularly as portrayed in the Genesis account of creation, and see the necessity of these tensions for the growth and development of humanity in God's image. We will also explore the evidence of these elements in the incarnation and ministry of Jesus, Paul's use of the indicative-imperative dialectic, and the insights of some noted adult educators in relation to how we learn as adults.

This will be supported by one of the six transformational themes, that of Personal Bible Engagement, that emerged out of my own doctoral research with four local congregations in the Ringwood area of Melbourne, Australia. I will endeavour to show that the creative tensions inherent within the nature of both God's kingdom and human life in this world are essential for God's transformational purposes for his image bearers, and are part of the processes of collaborating with him in his mission of global reconciliation and transformation.
