

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



Trendsetter or Rut-runner

Are you a trendsetter or a rut-runner?

You might be a rut-runner if...

- ...you are afraid to leave your comfort zone.
- ...your priorities are out of whack.
- ...you are stuck being busy with busyness.
- ...you find yourself always doing the same ole thing.
- ...you've given up on improving.
- ...you spend more time gloating over the past than forecasting the future.
- ...you are in survival mode rather than revival mode.
- ...you are trapped by your circumstances.
- ...you are constantly zapped of your energy.

Dave Anderson said, "You can't take ruts too lightly because if you stay in one long enough it can turn into a grave. In fact, the only difference between a rut and a grave is how deep it is and how long you're in it."

Anyone that has traveled a rutted road knows how difficult it is to get out. Hal Warfield in his article "Rut Busting" said a rut might be "a habit that we don't like anymore." People may feel "trapped, frustrated, and stressed" while living in a rut. At times, help is needed to escape. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Get the help of others. An accountability partner could assist. That's equivalent to calling a tow truck to the rut-rescue. No need to be a rut-buster or trendsetter alone.

The first step to rut-conquering and trendsetting is to stop digging and start climbing. John Trent in *Heart Shift* encourages us to make “two degree changes” in life knowing that small adjustments make a big difference. Course corrections can be made. That is what trendsetting is all about. Otherwise, if you always do, what you’ve always done, you always get, what you’ve always got. Take action and make a few resolutions. Set a fresh course in life. Establish goals. Get a grip on your vision. Cultivate self-discipline. Bobby Knight said self-discipline is (1) doing what needs to be done; (2) doing it when it needs to be done; and (3) doing it the best it can be done.

Trendsetters map routes for others to follow. They are big on vision and are always gabbing about—and grabbing for—the future. Why not? They plan to live there. Besides, vision is an indispensable mark of genuine leadership. It guides the trendsetter to places rut-runners only daydream of going.

I love to hear missionaries express their vision: where they are going, and how they will get there. They are consumed with a burden, passion, and eternal purpose. It is so inspiring. It ranks right up there with faith. In fact, vision is the flipside of faith. “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1, *NIV*).

Bill Allen, quoted in the blockbuster book, *Built to Last* said: We are “always reaching out to tomorrow. This can only be accomplished by people who live, breathe, eat and sleep what they are doing.” Sounds like trendsetters. Sounds like you!