

Characteristics of Leaders Who Turn the World Upside Down

About: Reggie McNeal speaks on themes he has researched through years of working with city leaders and now compiled in his new book *Kingdom Collaborators*. Hear his thoughts on collaboration, failing fast, curiosity, and soul care.

Podcast Notes:

Collaboration:

- Collaboration isn't a natural state. We need to learn this ability.
- Many of us grew up competing to get the best grade or to be the best on our teams. This means we need to learn the competency of collaboration because we did not grow up learning collaboration.
- Collaboration is not cooperation. It's not bringing an agenda and wanting others to cooperate with the agenda. Churches are notorious for bringing their agenda to the city.
- Collaboration moves from "for" to "with" others.
- The quality of life issues leaders are trying to solve are so big that we must work with each other to solve them.
- Collaborative, Kingdom-minded people want to be the best church *with* the city.

Fail Fast:

- Allowing yourself to fail fast means you have the capacity for risk that entrepreneurs have. The managerial, business as usual, non-innovative, institutional preservation-side of humans does not give us permission to fail, learn, and adapt.
- When you're impact-making you're risk-taking.
- We allow failure here because we are innovating here.
- When I work with a church that cannot answer the question "When is the last time you've failed?" I know I'm working with a church that is not innovating. You need to re-evaluate your theology of failure and progress.
- You won't be making much progress unless you're failing and learning from your mistakes.

Curiosity:

- How do you develop curiosity and what role does curiosity play?
- Every city movement leader I know has an insatiable curiosity. It may be deep in one area in which they're particularly curious, or they may be curious about a wide array of topics.



- The people I'm around who are doing great work are always asking: "What is the new thing God is up to? What are the new insights?" God is always up to something new.
- Curiosity is a decision.
- It's not just learning the latest technology either. We need to look at customizing education for kids and analyzing other topics.
- I have mentors who are 70 and 80 years old who are constantly asking me what I'm learning. They're incredibly curious.
- Developing curiosity is a conscious choice for adults because adults get caught in their ways and what has worked for them. But, you need to choose to continue to learn the new things. You need to ask both: "What do I need to learn?" *and* "What do I need to unlearn?"
- The world we live in is different now than it was then. This means some of the ways of thinking and living we used to use, need to change so that we can live into the future we believe God is leading us to.

Soul Care:

- With all of this talk about mission, vision, and the state of the world, it is easy for spiritual leaders to forget that God's mission includes *them*. You becoming you is the most beautiful act of praise to your Maker that you can offer.
- God had us in mind when He made us.
- The King of Life wants us to live fully. The King of anti-life wants to suck the life out of us—particularly those who are doing great Kingdom work.
- Compassion fatigue and burnout are slightly different but both need to be addressed in leaders.
- We need to re-establish boundaries and monitor our signals of stress.
- I run into spiritual leaders often who are not taking care of their own spiritual life. I can't think of a worse representation of the message we declare.
- Why is Jesus always the life of the party? He's so resilient. I talk about resilience in my book. We need to learn this.



Click to check out Reggie's new book which address all of the themes from this podcast:
Kingdom Collaborators: Eight Signature Practices of Leaders Who Turn the World Upside Down.

