**LAW #6 - YOU MUST GIVE UP COMMAND AND CONTROL**

**MODELS OF LEADERSHIP**

Whilst most businesses have long moved on, many churches expect those with the power (whether your ecclesiology has this as the Senior Pastor, the Elders, the Bishop, the Church Council, the Church Voting Body, the Presbytery, or whatever) to issue instructions that others then obey.

Such a centralized approach will war against a missional culture, since it will create rigid structures that focus on policies, precedents and procedures, for fear that Something Might Go Wrong. Paul would never have been released as a missionary to the Gentiles under such leadership (Acts 13:2-3)!

**A missional church looks for power and decision making to be decentralized out to those on the missional frontiers of the church.**

For instance, instead of someone telling the Pastor, “We should have a group to reach young moms” and him having to cook up a plan, the response of the pastor should be more titled towards, “How can we empower and equip you to follow this dream that Jesus seems to be birthing in you?”

Supporting structures in such a culture will need to be lightweight, flexible and fluid, with a focus more on values and culture rather than tasks and specific events.

* Thus we coach people in the values of creative worship, rather than simply giving them handouts of 4 pre-planned worship tasks to copy.
* The latter can be useful, but only in the light of first empowering leaders with the values we are seeking.

Now you may be thinking that you’d like your church to be like this! But there is a cost – best summed up by the principle of having freedom to fail.

In order to give up command and control models of leadership (whether you are the leader or not), missional churches must be comfortable with valuing failed experiments!

We must be able to celebrate when someone tries something that doesn’t work out how we hoped – because that grace is a wonderful picture of the Gospel lived out, and will create a genuinely innovative missional mindset.

**If everything that your church does succeeds, then you are not doing things right!**

**APPLY THE LAW:**

When personally are you more comfortable with command and control leadership?

How can you better celebrate failure, so that more innovation takes place in the future?