

Einstein Was Right!

By Dave Fleming

EINSTEIN'S WORK ON RELATIVITY was somewhat predicated on the reality that no two people experience time or space the same way. If Susie, riding in a car, holds a piece of paper, it appears stationary to her. But to Billy, standing on the sidewalk, the paper is moving rapidly. The different perspectives produce opposite viewpoints.

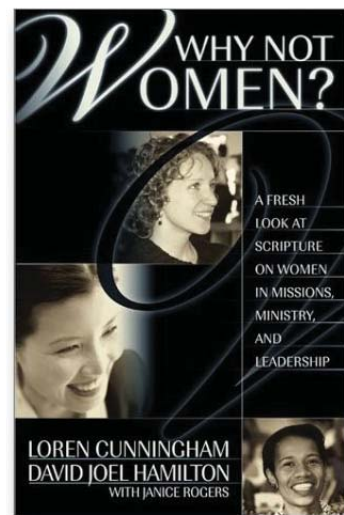
As managers, we encounter situations where people see issues differently. Somehow, a five-minute conversation becomes an hour-long debate, with little or no resolution. We can leave a meeting believing "alignment" was achieved, and soon discover that team members are further apart than before.

What's a manager to do? When it comes to differing perspectives: *expect them, even welcome them!*

When we do, the best thinking emerges. When people believe their viewpoints are valid, even if not always implemented, they're more willing to remain engaged. Everyone must be honored, even if certain ideas are discarded.

Dialogue will bring out a wide range of ideas, which become the "fertilizer" that enables the right ideas to emerge. Welcome diversity and your team will learn to trust these times of dialogue and what they eventually yield.

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Why Not Women?

By Anita Schamber

MANY OF US IN MINISTRY recognize and embrace the diversity of the body of Christ. Yet many Christian organizations reflect the business world at large, developing a culture of disproportionate gender and ethnic representation in leadership positions.

In *Why Not Women? A Fresh Look at Scripture on Women in Missions, Ministry and Leadership*, by Loren Cunningham and David Joel Hamilton, the authors present a detailed study of women in leadership roles throughout Scripture and Church history.

They encourage women to respond to God's call in their lives, despite limitations and barriers. The Church is challenged to support the mobilization of women so the full body of Christ can work together in achieving the Great Commission.

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Cultivating a Godly Skepticism

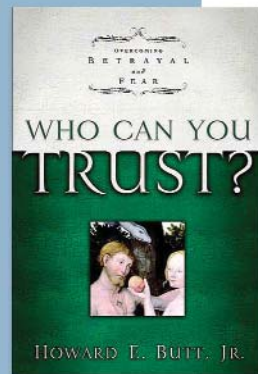
By Howard E. Butt, Jr.

IN OUR JOURNEY, we often find ourselves trusting someone that deep down inside we instinctively know can't be trusted. That's not all bad, when our desire is to become more Christlike. However, God never called us to be

"suckers." We also need deeper discernment – in short, a healthy dose of skepticism. Trust and mistrust are both essential virtues. We must be able to shift back and forth between them wisely and comfortably.

Thoughtfully and prayerfully decide whom you will trust and turn to for counsel. How does their counsel hold up in the light of Scripture? Are we fully conscious of where we're getting our advice and whom we're trusting? Ask God to search your heart. Otherwise, we'll be blind to ourselves and our life-models.

Taken from *Who Can You Trust? Overcoming Betrayal and Fear* by Howard E. Butt, Jr., published by WaterBrook Press (copyright © 2004 by Laity Renewal Foundation). You can read an extended excerpt on "Cultivating a Godly Skepticism" at CMA's Management Resource Center (www.CMAonline.org/mrc). Howard E. Butt, Jr. is on the faculty of CMA Long Beach 2005.



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