

On Jesus and the categories up/down, in/out, right/wrong, see my #1514.

Cartoonist Koren has come up with the best visual I've ever seen for stating how I/we remember. Here it is. I have been particularly conscious of the fact that memory is categorical (stored in category-files of the mind) these past nine months (to June '81), for only now do I have access again to my Exterior files....This thinksheet remembers my way of remembering.

1. At the end of the Depression, just prior to WWII, a farm boy arrived in seminary together with his tuition, room, and board--which weighed upward of a half ton: one cow, no cash, no credit. He was a rustic all the way, in both the delightful and the deprived senses. He needed help and fast, and I tutored him for encouragement as much as for improved cerebration. Late one evening he knocked on my door and said, "I think I've got it! If I could learn to think in categories, as you do, I could learn faster and remember better and think clearer." He was--as recent brain/mind research indicates--right on all three counts. So I taught him some basic categories, which he carried around with him on [what else?] 3x5s. What categories would you have given him, or helped him discover?

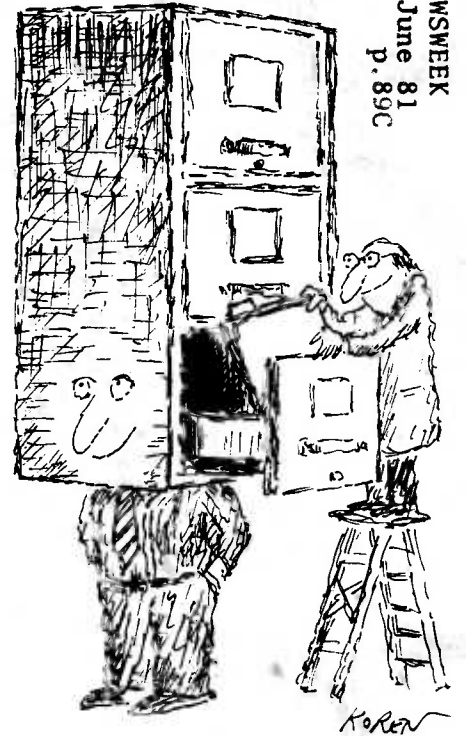
2. Well, it's a firm mnemonic principle that we remember the new better if we woof it on the warp of the old. So I suggested that he list on his first card the categories Paul alludes to in Ro.8.28-39. (Incidentally, no historical figure is Paul's superior in category-management. It's one of the secrets of his power and perennial appeal for plentitudinous meditation.)

3. "I want to remember that!" you say to yourself, and that wanting motivates your sharper attending--sharper in clarity (=discreteness), but also in intensity. An old saying of mine--"What gets your attention gets you"--is revisable thus: "...gets your memory in proportion to the intensity with which it got your attention." Stop reading this thinksheet here, close your eyes, and test this statement by recalling three events in your life-journey. Was not intense emotion present in all three cases? Category-analyze the events, listing them on category-cards---e.g., parent/child, elation, anxiety, mystery, trust/betrayal, faith/doubt, pleasure/pain, hope/despair, God/demonic.

4. As much as is true of the computer, memory in our brain is electrical signals cyborged to our mind (mind/brain/computer). My impetus to think categorically came early because my brain is complex with a tendency, because of mixed dominance, to fall into confusion. Imagine living with somebody whose IQ wavers between 170 and 70, as Loree has for more than 1/3rd century! My favorite analogy is from electricity: sometimes my brain is 1,000 watts, sometimes a night-light (7 1/2 watts). Hyper/hypo is another analogy: the rollercoaster. Know your brain, and thank God for the instrument given you to work with and refine for God's glory and human good. Memory, now, is the triangle made by equal overlapping of mind/brain/computer as three circles (yes, Ballantine's).

5. In light of all the above, good teaching helps people learn by (1) helping them make connections ("integrate") between known and new-known and (2) providing an emotionally and intellectually enriched event. Ditto for good preaching! All this comes together for me in my wax impression of the signet cylinder Cyrus used on the document permitting the Jews to return to Jerusalem in 538BC. So, says Aristotle, sense experiences imprint memories in our minds....So "Remember the Lord your God!"

Rifling through the mind's index files



Kuy #203
10.10-
11.25
am

U. of Hawaii '73 #151D "Religion and the Meaning of Existence"
(3 credits).....Willis Elliott
assignments (2 hours preparation for each session)
Readings are to the particular page in Frankl's MAN'S SEARCH FOR
MEANING, Novak's ASCENT OF THE MOUNTAIN, FLIGHT OF THE DOVE, and
Dostoevski's "The Grand Inquisitor." (About 17pp. per preparation.)

SESSION READ TO PAGE: OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:

July 17	32	(Frankl)
3 18	50	
4 19	75	
5 20	101	
6 23	120	
7 24	147	
8 25	167	
9 26	187	
10 27	finish	
11 30	6	(Novak)
12 31	24	
August 13	44	
14 21	53	
15 30	73	
5 16 6 15	84	
17 7 16	95	
18 8 17	117	
19 9 18	128	
20 10 19	137	
21 13 20	150	
22 14 21	157	
23 15 22	167	
24 16 23	177	
18 (17)	holiday	
25 20 24	186	
26 21 25	finish	
27 22 26	17	(Dostoevski)
28 23 27	finish	Hand in Book reports.
29 24 28	EXAM.	Get essay-booklets!

~~Rd "old notes."~~

~~Rd "BOTH."~~

return Book Reports