



*What now?  
Case Studies - a unique  
teaching tool*

Ministry, Church and Society  
Southern Nazarene University

# *What's a case study?*

- **An open-ended actual story**
  - No ending given
  - Brings chunks of reality into the classroom
- **A difficult problem, a dilemma without an obvious solution**
- **Pioneered by Harvard business school**
- **Forces us into a real situation where we have to answer: "What do we do now?"**

LEVEL ONE

**Dilemma**



LEVEL TWO

**Values**



LEVEL THREE

**Principles**



LEVEL FOUR

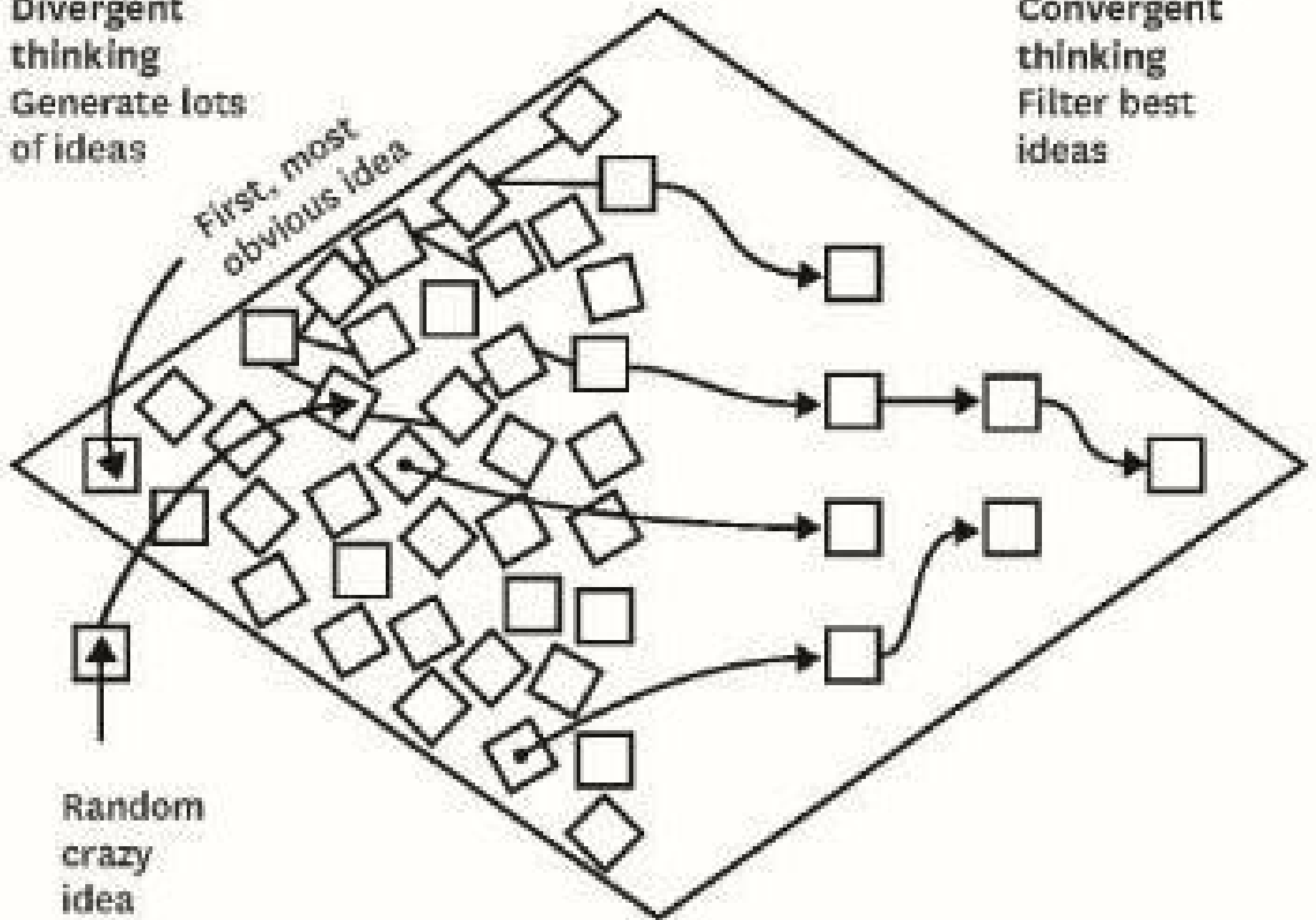
**Loyalties**



**Possible Options**

**Divergent thinking**  
Generate lots of ideas

**Convergent thinking**  
Filter best ideas



# *Case studies in MCS*

- “Drink or not to drink”
  - When values you cherish are at odds with the expectations of those around you
- “Racism in the church”
  - A local church gripped by unbiblical attitudes and actions
- “Youth group sponsors and a stripper”
  - When church members may have made bad judgments in attempts at humor
- “He walked away”
  - An attempt at sharing one’s faith doesn’t turn out like expected

# *Case Study #1: To drink or not to drink*

- Young American believer in France

- <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert.fs/drinking.htm>

# *When we are puzzling to non-believers*

- Alcoholic beverage is not key issue
  - This is not a “temperance” lesson
- Key issue: A believer in a situation where others do not share, and perhaps are even puzzled by his lifestyle positions

# *The question for us*

- Question: *What do I do in situations where my convictions are in direct opposition to other people's expectations?*

- <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert.fs/drinking.htm>