



Pruning Is the First Step to Innovation

Dr. Henry Cloud, *Psychologist and Leadership Expert*

One of the biggest roadblocks to innovation and positive disruption is the tendency to cling to what's always been done, says psychologist and leadership expert Dr. Henry Cloud in his talk at [Leadercast 2020—Positive Disruption](#). “Today may be the biggest enemy of your tomorrow,” he explains, noting that in order for leaders to create positive disruption, they must end what has always been in the past—what he calls necessary endings. They can do this by pruning.

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1. Prune what's good. Just because something is going well today, profitable even, doesn't mean it's what's best for tomorrow, says Dr. Cloud. He uses the example of Steve Jobs reducing Apple's computer offerings from 43 different versions down to the four models available today. Steve shut down what wasn't best for his vision for tomorrow.

2. Prune what's sick. There are some business models and people that aren't going to work within the vision of tomorrow. If something is sick and unlikely to get well, it's time to let it go.

3. Prune what's dead. Obviously, if something isn't even working for you today, it holds no place in being part of your tomorrow.