

Engaging the Church & Community

Cultural/Religious Contexts of Ministry

(Belief, Posture, and Action)



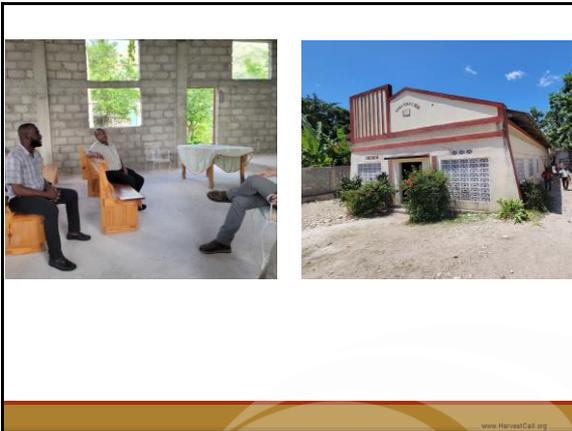
Why the Church Exists Review

Our purpose is to glorify God by loving as Jesus loves

The triune God, who is perfect in love is on a mission to unite us to himself. God himself has come into creation in order to redeem us so that we can be reconciled to Him

The Great Commission is joining in the mission of God (*Matthew 28:18-20*).

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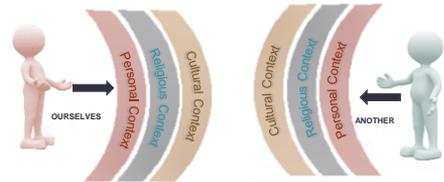


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BELIEF

Cultural/Religious Context of Ministry

We are Created in the Image of God for Relationship !



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Beliefs

5

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Biblical Perspective

God's mission is to bless all people on Earth through Jesus. Every single person you meet has an eternal soul. (Gen. 12:3)

The Gospel supersedes all culture. We are Faithful to Scripture, Representing Jesus and the Truth in love (Eph 4:15)

May the Gospel be not hindered by our approach of relating and serving all with people. (1 Cor. 9:12)

The first and second commandment interrelated and inform our heart to relate well to others. (Matt 22:37-39)

Out of love for our neighbor, we commit to walking as much in their shoes as helpful for the sake of the Gospel (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

We adapt messages to hearers like Apostle Paul did on Mars Hill. Acts 17:22-32

Our growth in knowing God is directly correlated to our knowledge of ourselves which is directly correlated to our ability to relate to others (Galatians 4:9)

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Jesus Our Example (John 20:21)

JESUS

- Called into God's Mission to draw all men to Himself
- Motivated by Love
 - Came into our Human Context
 - Adjusted to Jewish Culture
 - Lived among us.
 - Engaged others with openness & acceptance.
 - Accomplished Redemption for us All

We must serve Faithfully!

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Posture

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POSTURE

Posture of love and service



Ministry To Others

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Action

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Ministry in a Cultural Context

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Do you really understand the culture that you are ministering to? Have you examined your own culture? Do you understand it?
2. Do you feel like you are adequately ministering to the needs of the sisters in your congregation? Why or why not? Are their other groups you may not understand?
3. Does your congregation have the level of trust needed to work through conflict?
4. Do materially poor people feel comfortable coming to your church? Do they stay very long? How well do we understand them?
5. How is our ministry impacted if we were raised in a monolithic culture within an American dominant/individualistic culture?

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Ministry in a Cultural Context

In Preaching:

1. Express openness
2. Consider the cultural hurdles of your communications within yourself and your hearers
3. See/share the relational complexities in the scriptures

In Leading:

1. Doubt your illusion of knowledge
2. Gather more perspective, there is more to the story

In Living:

1. Start at home; lead and love your family well
2. Integrity, Integrity, Integrity – Our leadership always and only moves at the speed of trust

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Resources



All Nations Bible Study – Onward Media



Cross-cultural Servanthood – *Duane Elmer*
Serving the world in Christ-like Humility



Ministering Cross-Culturally – *Sherwood Lingenfelter*
An incarnational model for personal relationships

Follow up Discussion

Friday, March 10th at 3:00 pm ET

Engaging Others

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.