

TITLE: Missional Intentionality

MAIN IDEA: To reach other cultures, we must learn what they value to share what we value.

I. WORLDVIEW

Worldview: The set of values that drives, shapes, and informs each person's understanding of themselves, their community, and the broader world around them.

1. *Worldview is Subconscious*

- Most people live out their worldview without realizing its presence. It is only when we intentionally allow conversations and situations that moves our worldview into consciousness that we learn about the set of values that deeply shapes and forms our behaviour.
- The hardest worldview to understand is our own, and as such it makes difficult to understand others' worldview when we come into contact with them.

2. *Worldview is Multi-layered*

- It can be easy to assume that worldview plays a role only in the thoughts of people. But worldview occupy and shapes what happens at the three levels of human learning:
 - ✓ Analytical (“Head”) – The cognitive area of learning that deals with thoughts, facts, and stats.
 - ✓ Emotional (“Heart”) – The affective area of learning that deals with values, attitudes, and interests.
 - ✓ Behavioural (“Hand”) – The motivational area of learning that deals with purpose, hopes, and actions.

II. The Forces that move Cultural Groups

A. Self Expression

- The desire to preserve and pass on aspects of cultural expression such as language, perspective of the family (what we commonly referred to as “Family Traditions), dress, cuisine, etc.
 - **The challenge of cultural groups away from their places of origin is seeing how their desire for self-expression finds acceptance and appreciation from within.**
 - **This leads to *Cultural Concentration*- i.e. the agglomeration of cultural groups with linguistic and cultural common ground in a particular city and/or neighborhood and its willingness to anchor their lives around that.**
 - **Cultural Concentration will affect the strategy of a Church to reach the peoples group in their sphere of influence (internal or missional cross-cultural ministry) - Example – Armenian Church in Glendale**
 - **The Higher the level of cultural Concentration, the greater the extent of self-expression of a cultural group.**
 - **Some issues to consider is how to accommodate a different language (whose expression is strong in a highly concentrated cultural setting) into the life of our church/ministry.**

B. Outward Expression

- The Desire to project and display aspects of cultural expression for the purpose of recognition, acceptance and influence by society at large.
 - **The challenge of cultural groups away from their places of origin is seeing their drive for outward expression find relevance and belongingness amid a new culture.**
 - **Since a cultural group projects their worldview in the new cultural setting, we can create a picture of the cultural groups around them and “exegete” their values:**

I. FAMILY:

Individualistic V.S Collective

An *individualistic culture* is one that places the needs of the individual before the needs of the community. People from these cultures tend to see themselves as autonomous and their actions are shaped by personal opinion and attitudes. Being driven, self-reliant, and independent is valued in these cultures.

A *Collective culture* is one that places the needs of the community before the needs of the individual. People from these cultures tend to place more value on relationship and see themselves as integral part of a broader community with a role to play. Being generous, trustworthy, relational is valued in these cultures.

II. TIME

Linear V.S. Circular

A *linear* understanding of time means that time moves orderly from beginning and arrives at an endpoint. Under this conceptualization, time is driven by an end goal and is seen as a means whereby we move towards completing that goal.

A *circular* understanding of time means time moves in cycles where what laid in the beginning will repeat itself, and thus structures, progress, and forward movement is not as important as predetermination destiny, and relationships.

III. LEARNING

ANALITYCAL VS. PERCEPTIVE

An analytical way of learning will place emphasis on facts, stats, and concepts. It measures truth along empirical and measurable information.

A *perceptive* way of learning will place emphasis on opinions, internalization, and emotions. It measures truth along subjective and relational constructs.

FINDING A STRIKE ZONE

Jesus' message and mission began and grew in into a cultural context, a 1st century Judaic worldview. The Church was then challenged to carry on this Mission from Jerusalem into the outermost parts of the Earth. This mandate brought the Judaic followers of Jesus into cultures with different worldviews and Churches had to learn to cope with the ramifications as the gospel transformed Greeks, Romans, North Africans, etc.

What is being incarnational?

If we take and analyze John 1:14 verse that supports the Incarnation of Jesus (His coming in the flesh), we see:

- A. He became one of us.
- B. He related with us (We beheld His glory)
- C. He brought heaven to Us.

For the church becoming incarnational involves two things:

1. The learning of the values of the people we are trying to reach.
 - Finding the best vehicle to communicate the gospel, and to provide a place of belongingness for the cultural groups surrounding our churches.
2. The identification of the needs of the people we are trying to reach.
 - Finding the best way to display the gospel. Needs will regulate the expression of cultural values, and will show us the starting points to do spiritual work.

As we ponder these two important vehicles, and create a mental map of what they are, how they affect the life of the community, we will find the “**strike zones**” where we can show the love of God and have opportunities to make disciples.

Be Mindful of Cultural Values:

1. Learn how a culture learn values and seeks to express itself to determine what we can do to communicate the gospel. (e.g. the Parables)

□ **Be mindful of the Cultural needs:**

1. Learn the needs of the culture because needs will regulate the expression of a culture's values. Needs will also show you the starting point in the natural to start a spiritual work.



CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY STRIKE ZONE