

JOURNEYING WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Cultures Have Strengths and Weaknesses.

- Western cultures tend to be highly resourced, highly efficient, and highly motivated.
- Many Asian, African, and Middle Eastern cultures outshine us in hospitality, community, and perseverance.
- In the process of appreciating the strengths of our neighbors' cultures, we are also learning how to best care for them.

We Must Come with Humility

- Paul acknowledged he was an outsider to his Greek neighbors.
- We must recognize that there are barriers that keep our neighbors from hearing the Gospel despite our best efforts
- Listen humbly so you can learn.
- As we hear their hearts our understanding of God and our love for all the beautiful cultures he has created expands, along with our worship.

We Must Come with Sincerity

- 2 Corinthians 2:17-18
- Friendship is two ways, we should need our friends too.
- One way to know if we are building genuine friendships is to ask yourself: "Does my friend initiate conversations/spending time together or is it always me?"
- Mark 12:28-34 Love the Lord God the most and secondly, love your neighbor as yourself.
- We tend to think of ministry in terms of how many people we can share with, how many seeds we can throw BUT when ministering cross culturally this strategy can seem insincere.

We Must Come with Patience for the Process

- The process of building trust will not always seem efficient.
- We don't simply "love" our friends to expand our ministry. We love our friends because this is the message of the kingdom.
- If just one person comes to sincere and lasting faith they can effectively minister to their culture to lengths we could never imagine.

Continuing to Love Our Friends When They Don't Accept Christ

- As we seek to love God, we depend on Him to love our neighbors as ourselves.
 - Abby's metaphor of learning about South Asia.
 - The Engle scale is a model of evangelism where we see our friends on journeys of faith.
 - When the goal of evangelism is showing more of Jesus we are free from the pressure of trying to save others.
 - In our relationships with international friends, we should follow the model of Jesus to teach about the kingdom of God, a kingdom that came in humility, sincerity and patience.
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