

What Is Worldview?

- “A Worldview is a set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously) about the basic make-up of world” James Sire
- Ideas and values it embraces always seem logical and obvious to the people of the particular culture.
- Anthropologists often say that *people of different cultures live in different worlds.*
- Count every person as *a different planet.* Hence, It is better to focus on understanding people before telling your ideas. James 1:19 “*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak ...*”

Christian Worldview

All truth is God's truth

- Francis Schaeffer in *True Spirituality* says,
 - Man is separated from God – reason for spiritual problems.
 - Man is separated from himself – reason for psychological problems.
 - Man is separated from man – reason for sociological problems.
 - Man is separated from the world – reason for ecological problems.

Cultural Barriers

- 2 Corinthians 3:1-6
 - Muslims seek deep, genuine & lasting relationship.
 - Friendship with you affects all area of his life: family, friends, school, work, future marriage etc... *whole community!*
 - Direct communication versus indirect form of communication : *example from a foreign missionary in Ankara, Turkey*
 - Christian behaviors: immodest dress, offensive diet, drunkenness, drug use, immorality on TV
 - Historical Barriers: Crusade, colonialism of the West

Cultural Barriers

- Arab-Israeli conflict.
- Dispensationalism: Arab countries are enemies of Israel – God's chosen people
- Nationalistic pride of citizenship-Patriotism
- Loose morality among Christians.
- Immodest Lifestyle: Materialistic, prosperity teachings, immodest dress by woman
- Lack of fear of God: lack of fear & reverence of God among Christians such as addiction to entertainment, excessive humor.
- Ignorance of Islam
- Lack of compassion & concern for souls/lack of abiding relationship with Christ – John 15
- Lack of prayer and outreach



Theology or policy? U.S. evangelicals' alliance with Israel is firmer
– *International Herald Tribune*

Relationships & Thoughts

- Thoughts about self, God and other people stem from condition of the human heart in relation to God, self and others.
- Thoughts about self, God and people are *ultimately* the *products* of relationships, not information transfer from outside of the person. Humans are born with innate knowledge about God, self and others.
- Hence, change in one's relationship first with God, second with himself and third with other people is the most important thing in life.

Cultural Adjustment Map

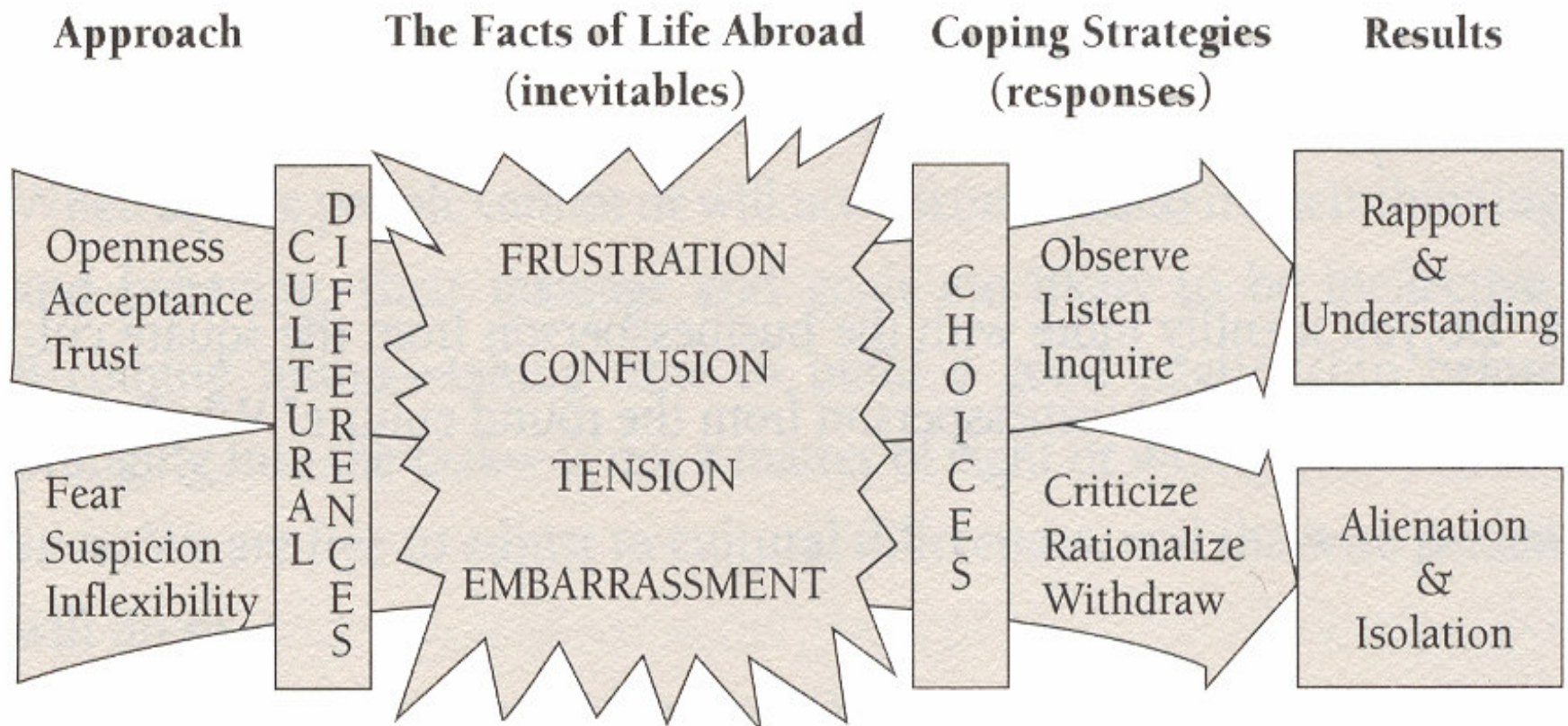


Figure 8.1. The Cultural Adjustment Map

The Upper Track

All growth is spiritual growth – Henry Cloud

- Observe : results in identifying the differences.
- Listen : results in meeting with reality.
- Inquire : results in understanding others.

UNDERSTANDING & CHANGE

- Humility – Submitting to the reality (Matt. 5:3, 5:5).
- Acceptance – Grieving for loss as a result of the cultural shock. Grief is spiritual digestion of loss (Isaiah 53:3).
- Change – Having new hope for a better life (Heb. 5:8)

The Lower Track

- **Fear** : results in isolation and distorted thinking in relationships (Fear of man, things, lost, suffering etc.)
- **Suspicion** : results in distrust in relationships.
- **Inflexibility** : results in resistance to change and isolated relationships.

ALIENATION & ISOLATION (Relational issue)

- **Criticize** : results in denial of reality.
- **Rationalize** : results in distorted thinking, devaluation, projection, Idealization etc.
- **Withdrawal** : results in isolation and disintegration from the host culture.

Cultural Differences

- Time & Event
- Task & Relationship
- Individualism & Collectivism
- Categorical & Holistic Thinking
- Logic: Straight or Curved
- Achieved Status & Ascribed Status
- Guilt & Shame

Time & Event

What do you Americans do with all the time you save?

- Industrial Society
 - Task & Schedule oriented
 - Events oriented
 - Productivity oriented
- Agricultural Society
 - Relationship oriented
 - Quality of event is priority
 - Natural progression is more important than personal purpose

EAST MEETS WEST

- When Ronald Reagan went to China, he was asked what he hoped to accomplish with the trip. He responded, “I’ll go as a salesman, doing everything I can up to the point of putting a “Buy America” sticker on my bag”.
- When Deng Xiaoping, premier of China, was asked the same question, he responded, “The presentation of views in a calm way helps increase understanding. I hope to see an enhancement of the friendship”.

Task & Relationship

- **Goal Driven Person**

- Identity is defined by performance & works.
- Hard work defines them.
- Trustworthy, dedicated, sacrificial.

- **Relationship Driven Person**

- Dictate of life is not goal but relationships.
- Trust is the first part of the work.
- Socializing lays the foundation to get things done.

Individualism & Collectivism

If you want to travel fast...go alone; if you want to travel far...go together.

- **Individualism** – The Individual is prior to society – John Locke
 - Individual decision making is celebrated.
 - Success & identity is derived from the individual's own life, not from the past nor family connection.
 - Personal direction of life, hence, mission & vision are expected to be followed.

- **Collectivism**
 - Individual do not make decision alone, family is involved.
 - One's own desires are subordinate to those of the group.
 - One's own identity & success comes from the community and fulfilling its expectations.

Categorical & Holistic Thinking

- **Categorical Thinking**
 - Specialization is the common view of reality.
 - Dualistic thinking in time segments : good or bad times; positive or negative etc.
 - Sacred and Secular division exists.
- **Holistic Thinking**
 - Life is unfolding, each layer is connected to the former and must be understood in relation to the whole and part of the whole. (i.e. layers of onion)
 - Life can't be compartmentalized; no division of sacred and secular. (i.e. Attacking a Muslim country means, attacking to the Muslim world).
 - Your possessions are meant for sharing (no welfare system).

Logic: Straight or Curved

- **Straight Logic**

- Efficient, direct and precise.
- Connectedness of the logic creates direct communication.

- **Curved Logic**

- Interest and commitment is sought first before question asked.
- Intuition is as important as logic.

Achieved Status & Ascribed Status

■ Achieved Status

- Personal success is the determining factor for status.
- Establishing right habits, persevering towards your goal in a disciplined way is way to achieve things.

■ Ascribed Status

- Status is given at birth, by family, vocation or financial condition.
- Being a foreigner is a status of dignity.

Guilt & Shame

- **Guilt (About Righteousness & Truth)**

- Guilt is about conscience of the person.
- There is separation of person and idea.
- Behavior is punished, not the person nor his identity.
- Motivation comes from within.
- Guilt is about not doing right things according to the law.

- **Shame (About Pleasure & Glory)**

- Shame is about *identity* of the person.
- Shame is about not *pleasing* the community of people.
- The shame incorporates the basic anxiety and shapes the guilt through the promises of acceptance or threats.
- It's not about truth but *acceptance* by the community of significant people.
- There is no separation of an idea and person. They are one. Attacking an idea is attacking to the person.
- The whole person (his identity) is punished not his behavior.
- Motivation comes more from the people who surround you.

Bibliography:

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- *Humility & Absolute Surrender* by Andrew Murray
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