



Communication Across Cultures, 2022
Dr. Jan Paron
Pastor Malachi Anderson

Session 2
Cultural Value Dimensions



A N L I
Bridging the gap leadership

Key Quote

"One of the crises of our age is the breakdown in communication. As the world becomes a global community, peoples of sharply differing cultures are forced to live together, share the same natural and human resources, and create culturally pluralistic communities. This brings tensions in cross-cultural communication" (Nicholls, *Contextualization: A Theology of Gospel and Culture*, 2003, p. 7).

Instructional Overview

Big Ideas

- The Christian communicator (source¹ of a message) aims to communicate in an intentional, culturally sensitive, and relevant way so the listener (receiver of the message²) correctly interprets the sent verbal or written messages.

Essential Questions

- In what ways do the M.O.S.A.I.C tenets support communication in a cross-cultural context?
- How does one's cultural layers affect decoding a communicated message?

Learning Outcomes

- Identifies aspects of Schein's cultural layers in case study scenarios from his or her own ministry
- Summarizes behind-the-text information in Acts 17:16-24 through the detailed observation process and applies it to Schein's three layers of culture
- Analyzes Paul's contextualization strategies in Acts 17:16-34

Lesson Goal

To apply meaning making-strategies as a grace-filled leader in cross-cultural contexts according the M.O.S.A.I.C. tenets and Schein's layers of culture.

¹ Communication originates from one person (source or encoder) to another (receiver or decoder). The source transmits information via a message using signs from a verbal or nonverbal medium to the receiver (Shannon & Weaver, 1998; Zeuschner, 1997).

² The receiver receives a sent message from the source and decodes the communication.

Pass the Page (Pastor Malachi)

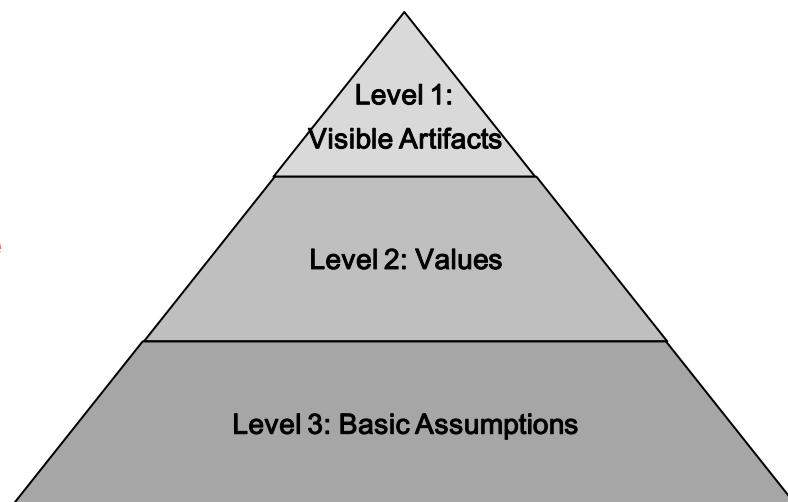
Directions:

- Each person will have 45 seconds to respond to a question after the person to the left completes it.
- However, the next person must add something different than the previous students by including new information about the prompt.
- Afterwards, you'll debrief.

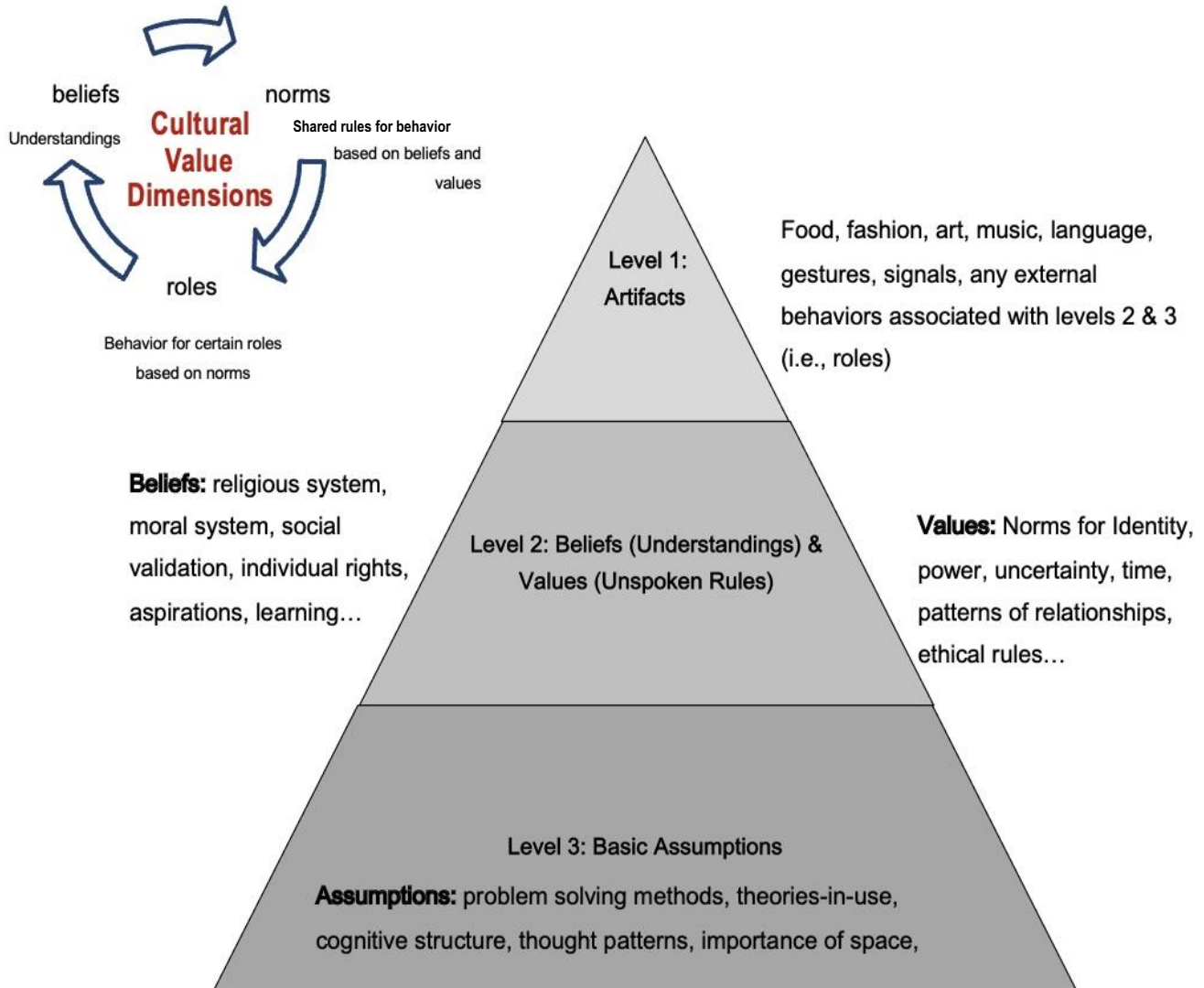
Questions

1. What is culture?
2. Describe one approach to enhance interpersonal communication in cross-cultural contexts?
3. How do Schein's three layers of culture connect to meaning making in communication?
4. What causes breakdowns in cross-cultural communication?
5. How can understanding the levels of culture help a pastor in ministry?

**Schein:
Levels of Culture**



Activity 1 Continued (Pastor Malachi) Closer Look at Schein's Layers of Culture

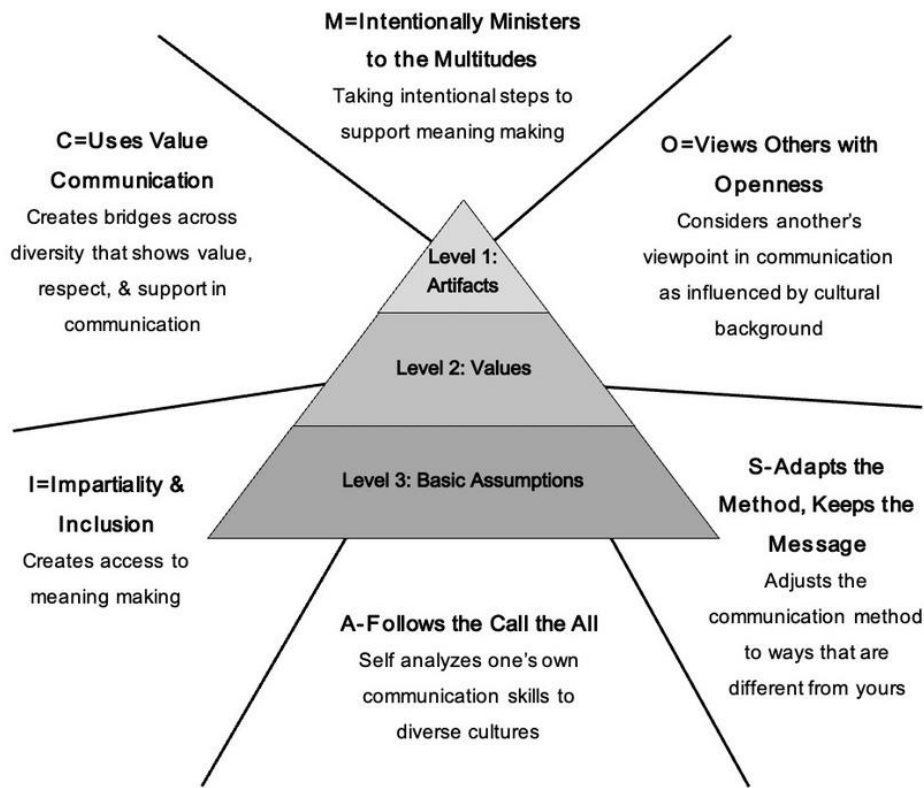


Worldview: The Truth, importance of time, space (ownership & allocation), human nature, relationship with the environment, human nature, & social power

15-Second Check: Add to the person/s before you with your response.

Prompt: How does Schein's layers of culture affect your communication in ministry?

BREAK: 8-8:10pm



What cross-cultural communication actions did Paul take in Athens? (Acts 17:16-34)

M: Intentionality:
O: Openness:
S: Adaptations:
<p>A: Call to the All: (Exemplar)</p> <p>Luke noted in Acts 17:16 that the city given over to idols provoked Pauls' spirit. The idols did not discourage him, though. We see in the very next passage Paul witnessing in the synagogue and marketplace (17:16), and later at the Areopagus (v. 22).</p>
I: Impartiality/Inclusion:
C: Value Communication:

Intercultural Communication Self-Check (8:30-8:45pm)

Intentionality: Did I take intentional steps to create meaning making in communication?

Openness: Did I consider another's cultural viewpoint when I communicated with him or her?

Adaptability: Did I adapt my message delivery so the receiver could understand me?

Call to the All: Did I self-analyze my communication skills first and continue without discouragement?

Impartiality/Inclusion: Did I create access to meaning making when communicating?

Value: Did I use communication bridges that show value, respect, and support?

Activity 1: Listening to Follow Directions**Directions:**

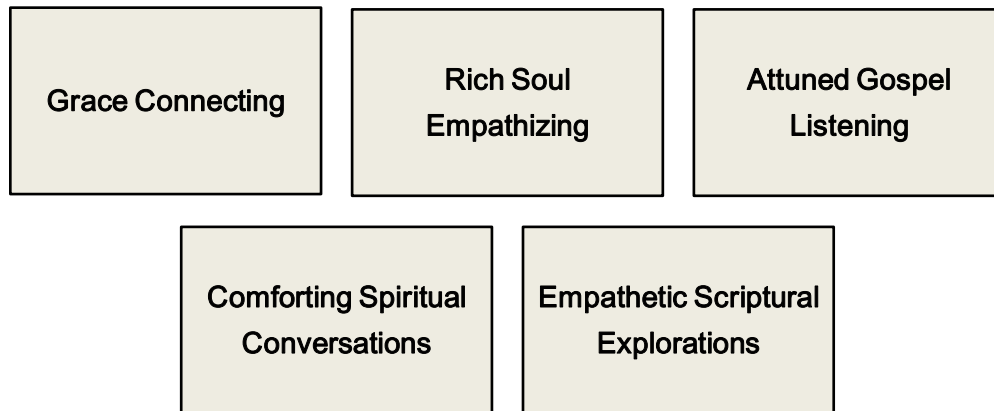
- You will group in twos and threes.
- One person in the group (message source) will give directions to draw a figure from a sheet of paper, while the others (message receiver) will draw the figure.
- The message receiver/s will draw based on verbal directions only. They cannot view the figure until after the activity ends.

Note: We will assign each person a different (1) **belief** (understanding), (2) **value** (unspoken rule), (3) **norm** (shared rule for behavior based on belief and value), and (4) **role** (shared behavior for a given role based on norm).

- You have five minutes to complete the activity. Keep the MOSAIC tenets in mind when you interact with each other.

Debrief

Activity 2: Case Study Scenario (Dr. Paron: 8:45-9:15pm)
Communicating as a Grace-Filled Leader with Cross-Cultural Communication



Intercultural Communication: Self-Check

Intentionality: Did I take intentional steps to create meaning making in communication?

Openness: Did I consider another's cultural viewpoint when I communicated with him or her?

Adaptability: Did I adapt my message delivery so the receiver could understand me?

Call to the All: Did I self-analyze my own communication skills first and continue without discouragement?

Impartiality/Inclusion: Did I create access to meaning making when communicating?

Value: Did I use communication bridges that show value, respect, and support?

Directions:

- Discuss how you would handle the scenario keeping in mind your actions as a grace-filled leader communicating in a cross-cultural setting.
- Before you respond review the self-check for intercultural communication and let it guide your response.
- Further, consider the Schein's cultural layers in tandem with the M.O.S.A.I.C. tenets.

Case Studies

Scenario One: Elder Jillian

A woman in great distress comes to you having had an abortion against her will because her husband threatened to leave if she didn't. She already has one child.

Scenario Two: Elder Liza

You are a ministry head working on a project with your team. Despite email and text reminders, two team members don't complete their part of the project. They also arrive late to practice. How do you handle the situation taking communication and culture in mind?

Scenario Three: Elder Jordan

Pastor Dan asks you to prepare to accompany him and evangelize in Nigeria. What do you need to know about your audience?

Scenario Four: Elder Corine

Lately, you feel your Sunday School lessons have not been effective. What steps do you take to analyze your communication? What do you need to change?

Scenario Five: Elder Brenda

You overhear a younger member of the choir disagreeing with an older member regarding dress code rules for the choir. The younger member believes in dressing as is for choir. The conflict has the potential to rile up other choir members. You know the young lady well and reach out to her after practice.

Closing Post Discussion:

Based on today's lesson, answer the following questions on post-its. Share out when finished.

1. What do I do well when communicating in cross-cultural contexts?
2. What do I need to improve when communicating in cross-cultural contexts?
3. What personal beliefs (understandings) and values (unspoken rules) pose barriers to communication in cross-cultural context?

Communication Across Cultures, 2022 — Homework, Session 2

Due: October 27, 2022

Readings

Review Reader Two focusing on the cultural value dimensions.

Detailed Observation

Complete **Part Two** (Sections A-C) of the detailed observation about Paul in Athens: Acts 17:16-24. I'll add it after Part One: Detailed Observations. **Work directly on the Google Doc during the week so I can check your progress.**

Note: You may find that you did not analyze the passage enough in your detailed observation. If this occurs, you'll have to return to it and dig more.

Section A. Passage Contextual Background Notes

Write about the passage genre as well as Athenian geography, history, culture, religious beliefs, social, and economic. See mine for Berea as an example.

Section B. Schein's Three Levels of Culture

Complete each of Schein's three levels of culture on the various audience in the passage.

Section C: Paul's Contextualization Strategies

Bullet out in sentence form the contextualization strategies Paul used in Athens.

You'll need to read through to the end of the chapter to find all his strategies.

Reflection (300-400 words)

Write on the Google Doc shared with you on Friday. Again, you do not need to send it to the teachers.

Sermon Topic

E-mail your tentative sermon topic to Pastor Malachi and Dr. Paron based on Acts 17:16-34. The sermon will run 20 minutes in length. This topic will form the basis of your illustrated, word-for-word sermon due session four and preached session six.

Remember your audience will either be the 8:30 or 11am services. Your sermon will reflect strategies in cross-cultural communication learned from class.