

What is the gospel? 3: good news for all cultures

discussion guide

(Linked to sermon of 9/4/23)

which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks

This discussion guide is a bit different to normal and includes suggestions for a brief online test to take, and a video to watch. There isn't as much 'bible study' as normal – but it is about how our background culture influences how we read and understand the Bible.

Intro: can you think of a time when you or someone else has made a cultural 'faux pas'. It could be in real life, or in a film / book etc. Describe the situation, the faux pas, and the repercussions.

Cultural faux pas tend to stem from inappropriate actions / words. But behind the *outward* cultural differences are *internal* cultural differences – in our mindset (sometimes called worldview) – how we think. It's those differences we're thinking about in this session.

Visit <http://theculturetest.com/> (on your phone or via a printout) – spend 5 minutes completing this test individually. Before you look at your results, discuss what you find surprising about some of the possible answers to the multiple choice questions. Can you think of people who might have given different answers to you?

Watch the 7 minute video at www.globalfrontiermissions.org/3d-gospel-guilt-innocence-honor-shame-and-fear-power-worldviews which introduces the 3 worldview types, and how the gospel message speaks to each culture. It covers similar ground to Dan's sermon.

What struck you most about the video presentation?

Have a go at summarising in your own words how people from the three different cultural backgrounds think – and therefore which parts of the gospel message might speak most powerfully to them. (a) an innocence-guilt mindset; (b) an honour-shame mindset; (c) a power-fear mindset

Look at the charts at <https://honorshame.com/data-global-culture-types/> - to see how different regions of the world typically balance the guilt, shame and fear factors. Think of people you know who come from a different cultural background to you. Does this culture map help you understand the differences between you?

Read Genesis 3. Where does it speak of (a) sin, guilt and the possibility of forgiveness; (b) shame and the restoration of honour; (c) fear, spiritual forces and power?

Ponder on these verses about Jesus and the salvation he brings – and how they might speak good news to people from different cultural backgrounds in ways that resonate with them:

- “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement ...” (Romans 3.23-25)
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6.23)
- “Jesus endured the cross, scorning its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12.2)
- “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” (Romans 10.11)

- “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 3.13)
- “Having disarmed the powers and authorities, Christ made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2.15)

Spend some time praying for our church community – that we would become more inter-cultural, gaining insights into the Bible from sisters and brothers who are from different cultural backgrounds to us – and therefore helping us to draw closer to God in Christ by the power of his Spirit.

For those who want to explore this further, read “The 3D Gospel” by Jayson Georges (only 75 pages long). Or download the 2-page theology summary from www.stjamesbythepark.org/sermon-discussion-notes