1. Following Christ means counting the cost (Luke 14:25-33)

2. Following Christ especially means Publicly Professing Christ through Baptism (Matthew 28:19)

3. Following Christ involves identifying with Christ's People, the Church (Luke 14:26)

Conclusion

Next week: Week 9: Short-term missions: Their nature and usefulness

Questions or comments? Email Riley Barnes (riley.barnes@capbap.org) or Caleb Morell (caleb.morell@capbap.org).

Core Seminars – Christian Living

Challenges in Modern Missions: Contextualization and Gospel Proclamation

Week 8 – February 27, 2022

Introduction: Challenges of Communicating the Gospel Cross-Culturally

What is Contextualization?

> "Taking something from one place and putting it in another while retaining faithfulness and sensitivity to the original intent of the thing. For our purposes, contextualization is communicating the gospel, planting churches, discipling others, training leaders, and establishing Christianity in other areas of the world while being both faithful to God's Word and sensitive to the culture." (Zane Pratt, M. David Sills, and Jeff K. Walters, *Introduction to Global Missions*, 149).

Good and bad contextualization

> 'Bad contextualization' either treats non-essentials as essential or essentials as non-essential.
>
> Good contextualization treats non-essentials as non-essential and essentials as essential.

I. Bad Contextualization

Under-Contextualization: Treating non-essentials as essentials.

Over-Contextualization: Treating essentials as non-essential

→ Which extreme do you think you are more likely to fall into personally?

II. Good Contextualization: Paul's Posture of Personal Sacrifice

1. Paul models biblical fidelity for the sake of gospel preservation (Gal. 1:6-10)

2. Paul models cultural flexibility for the sake of gospel proclamation (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

> "Christian liberty is not about you and your freedom to do what you want to do. It's all about the freedom to discipline yourself to be flexible for the sake of the gospel and for the sake of weaker believers." (Naselli & Crowley, *Conscience*, p. 132)

3. The local church is God's laboratory for recalibrating your conscience (Romans 15:7-9)

> "God intends the little clashes of culture in your church to get you ready for the really difficult clashes of culture in missions and evangelism." (Naselli & Crowley, *Conscience*, 136)

III. The C-Spectrum and "Insider Movements"

