

Chapter 17: Cultural and Social Considerations

But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ...

Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way (Rom. 14:10, 13).

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being (1 Cor. 10:23-24).

AFTER THESE THINGS I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A GREAT MULTITUDE WHICH NO ONE COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION AND ALL TRIBES AND PEOPLES AND TONGUES, STANDING BEFORE THE LAMB, CLOTHED IN WHITE ROBES AND PALM BRANCHES WERE IN THEIR HANDS (REVELATION 7:9).

YOUR NOTES:

Cultural and social considerations must be part of every workshop. Communication is enhanced when we respect cultural protocols and practices when engaging with church partners.

Training workshops that involve participants from different cultures provide an opportunity to learn

together, and to celebrate and better understand differences.

Exercise:

Choose three areas of culture—such as food, religion, marriage and family, work, housing, or recreation.

Share important information about the three topics you have chosen. When you're finished, a leader from your group will report back to the wider group.

Teamwork and collaboration are central to checking and refining Bible translation. A trust relationship between translators is important as they work together.

- **When thinking about the MAST process, which steps might cause difficulty from a cultural context?**

- **How can you deal with each challenge to lead to a positive result for the translation team?**

YOUR NOTES:

Working as a team requires:

- Being willing to offer time and talents freely to the Lord (1 Chronicles 29:9)
- Taking the role of a learner (Matthew 23:12).
- Asking questions and willing to try new things. (Exodus 35:29)
- Valuing others in the team (Ephesians 2:10)
- Expressing appreciation for others within the team (1 Corinthians 16:17)
- Accepting feedback and recognizing others' opinions (Proverbs 1:5)
- Being willing to see our mistakes and try again (Matthew 18:4).

Other Helpful Verses:

Ephesians 5:20

Romans 14:1

Here are some important factors to consider when leading Church Owned Bible Translation training and selecting a Bible translation team:

- Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Bilingual ability in the Gateway language and the Heart language to be translated.

YOUR NOTES:

- Biblical knowledge
- Experience with computers/technology.
- Existing relationships between the translators
- Involving women in the translation team (consider Lydia in Acts 16)
- Involving young people in the translation team to support generational ownership (consider Paul's relationship with Timothy)

YOUR NOTES:

Some aspects of the translation process will be **uncomfortable!**

Our common trust in JESUS is far more important than any differences!

Review of Core Concepts:

- Cross-cultural work requires us to recognize and respect cultural differences and similarities so we can communicate effectively.
- Teamwork and collaboration, and therefore trust, are essential to checking and refining a Bible translation.
- There may be cultural or social challenges, but our differences can make us a stronger team.