

Video Script Ch. 17: Cultural and Social Considerations

Video 17.1

Serving in a cross-cultural setting requires us to recognize differences and similarities among cultural groups so that we can communicate effectively. It is important to respect cultural protocols and practices when engaging with church partners and organizations globally.

For example:

In some cultures, silence is an important part of communication, as it indicates good listening. **In other cultures**, long gaps and silences can be seen negatively and people want to fill up pauses.

In many countries, it is preferable to invite small groups to discuss a topic or set of questions and for a leader from the group to provide feedback to the wider group. Asking an individual for a response can result in 'shame' for the person if they feel their answer is incorrect. This may make them reluctant to contribute to other group discussions.

Training workshops that involve participants from different cultures provide an opportunity to learn together, and to celebrate and better understand differences.

Video 17.2

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).

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.
- 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)

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There may be cultural and social challenges as we work together. However, our differences can make us a stronger team. It helps to recognize that parts of the process may be uncomfortable. The solution is not in trying to change culture, but in listening, respecting one another, and finding strategies to help the team to be successful in translation.

Remember: WHO we have in common is far more important than any differences.