



PRACTICAL TIPS TO CULTIVATE

INTERCULTURAL INTELLIGENCE



Practical Tips to Cultivate “INTERCULTURAL INTELLIGENCE”

God’s world is not mono-colour and one dimensional, but multi-colour and multi-dimensional. Scriptures declare that God desires to restore each individual from every nation and tribe and people and language (1 Tim. 2:1ff.,; Rev. 5:9-10; 7:9).

The integrity and mission effectiveness of Cornerstone’s intercultural vision depends on our Spirit-directed community and relational intelligence. Cornerstone’s vision must first be seen “in house”, in this most diverse community in Canada, before the world will take our message of peace/reconciliation seriously.

The following are some practical tips to cultivate “intercultural intelligence”:

1. Put a smile on your **F.A.C.E. in every intercultural encounter**

- **F**ocus on the speaker.
- **A**sk about his/her story with cultural sensitivity.
- **C**onnect by being a good listener.
- **E**xtend a Jesus-embrace.

2. Beside listening to what’s said by the individual, learn “the silent language of culture”:¹

- Attitude towards *time, routine, and schedule*.
- Attitude towards *space and property*.
- Methods of *control, attitude toward the use and sharing of resources*.
- Attitude towards *family, kin, and community*.
- Attitude towards *work and division of labour*.
- Differing modes of *speech, dress, and conduct*.
- Methods of learning by *observation, modeling, or instruction*.
- Attitude towards *humour, entertainment, and games*.
- Approach towards *health procedures, social conflicts, and beliefs*.

3. 7 specific behaviours and sayings that demonstrate “the art of inclusion”:²

- **Give respectful acknowledgement** to the stranger among us.
“I will lift you up.”
- **Protect the vulnerable** among us from embarrassment.
“I will cover you.”

¹ Modified and adapted from Sherwood G. Lingenfelter and Marvin K. Mayers, *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships*, pp. 27-28.

² Modified and adapted from David A. Anderson, *Gracism: The Art of Inclusion*, pp. 43-45.

- **Take no special treatment** if it is at the detriment of others who need it.
“I will share with you.”
- **Show greater honour** to the humble.
“I will honour you.”
- **Safeguard unity-in-diversity** by helping the minority and the weaker.
“I will stand with you.”
- **Consider each other’s concern** by having a heart as big for our neighbours as we do for ourselves.
“I will consider you.”
- **Rejoice and celebrate** when the humble or less honourable are helped.
“I will celebrate with you.”

For further exploration and deeper understanding of intercultural learning, check out the following resources:

Samuel George Hines and Curtis Paul DeYoung, *Beyond Rhetoric: reconciliation as a Way of Life*.

Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, S. Steve Kang, & Garry A. Parrett (Ed.), *A Many Colored Kingdom*.

Michelle Ami Reyes, *Becoming All Things: How Small Changes Lead To Lasting Connections Across Cultures*.

