

God's Glory in MISSIONS

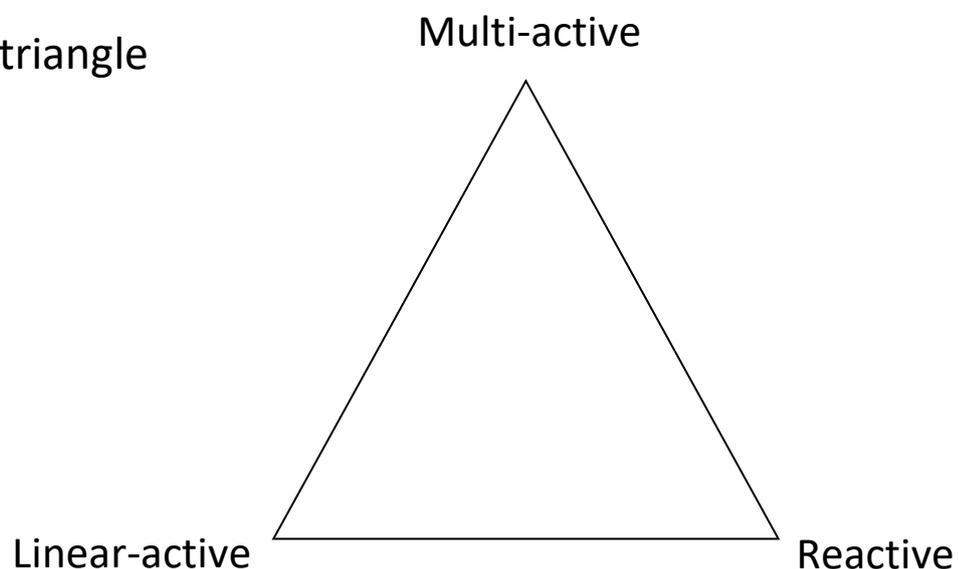
Lesson 5: Understanding the Culture

Introduction

'Good missionaries have always been good anthropologists' (Quote)

Evaluation

- Two views:
 - Inside view
 - Outside view
- Danger to watch
- Evaluation triangle



Communication

- **The Importance of verbal communication**

Rom 10:14-15, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Step 1. _____

Step 4. _____

Step 2. _____

Step 5. _____

Step 3. _____

Step 6. _____

Two approaches to speaking the language:

_____ the language

_____ the language

- **The importance of nonverbal communication**

- The majority of meaning is communicated through facial and vocal expressions, not just words. Statistics:

- Facial expressions: 55%
- Paralanguage (the way the words are said): 38%
- Verbal (the words themselves): 7%

- Gestures

- **Orality and Literacy**

- Literacy culture thinks in abstract terms

- Oral culture thinks in concrete terms

- Oral culture people do not separate truth from the truth teller

- **Statistics:**

- 6,913 languages

- Less than 500 languages have a Bible translation

- About 1200 languages have a New Testament

- **Three things we must achieve:**

- (1) The listener understands what we are saying

- (2) The listener remembers what we have said

- (3) The listener shares what we have said to another

- **Jesus' method of teaching**

- **Statistics from within the US:**

- Over 50% of population are functionally illiterate

- 58% will never read another book after high school age

- 33% of high school graduates will never read another book

- 42% college graduates will never read another book
- Over 80% US families did not buy or read a book last year
- 57% of books purchased are not read to completion
- Today, people will spend:
 - 4hrs watching TV, internet
 - 3hrs listening (radio, podcast etc)
 - 14min reading, usually magazines

Contextualization

• Meaning:

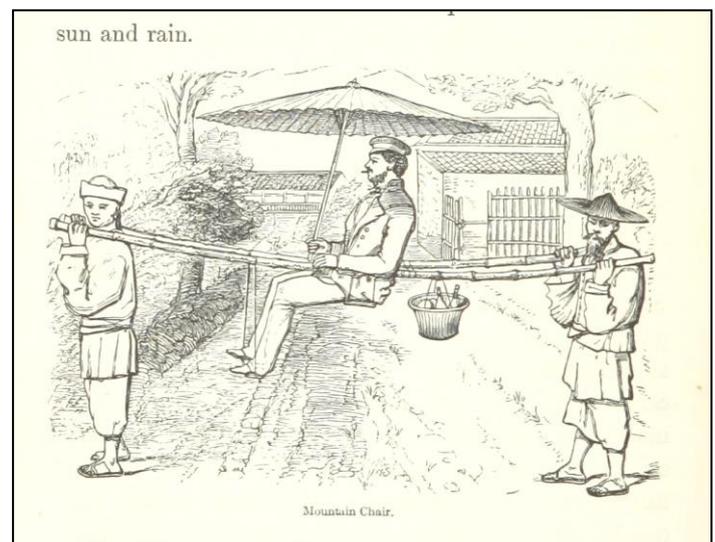
- Contextualization is communicating the gospel, planting churches, discipling others, training leaders, and establishing Christianity in other areas of the world while being both faithful to God's Word and sensitive to the culture

Biblical Basis

- 1 Cor 9:20-23

• Controversial examples

• Historical example



Four Step Contextualization Process

1. Study and exegete the culture
2. Study the Word of God
3. Study the passage
4. Guide them into a new contextualization process