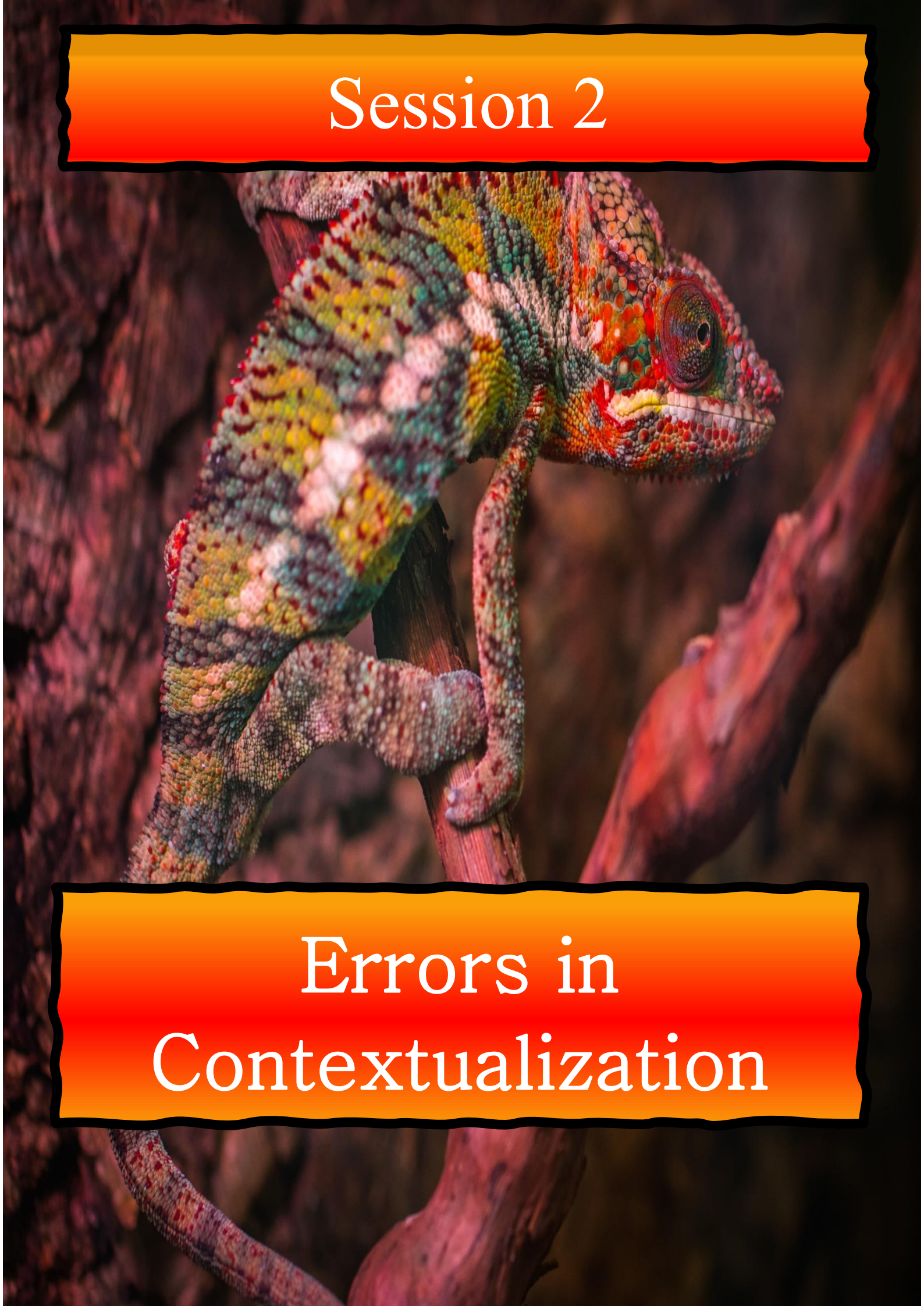


# Session 2

A close-up photograph of a colorful chameleon perched on a tree branch. The chameleon's skin is covered in small, raised scales in various colors including green, yellow, red, and blue. It is looking towards the right of the frame. The background is a blurred, reddish-brown tree trunk.

## Errors in Contextualization

## Instructor



**STEPHEN BECK PhD**

**Stephen** is a career church planter and church planting instructor. He has served with the Redeemer Church Planting network in Canada, more recently with Greater Europe Mission in Germany. He is considered one of the "cutting edge" Greater Europe Missionaries in this regard. He is Professor of Practical Theology at Freie Theologische Hochschule in Giessen, Germany. He has also been guest lecturer at a number of institutions on the European continent. He is married to Susan, and they have four children. In 2011 Stephen and Susan embarked on yet another journey: together with twenty-five college students they planted a multi-everything church for the Frankfurt metro region. Through the refugee wave that came over Germany, this church multiplied to fifteen congregations in 6 years.

## Goals

This 13 session course about contextualization and models for intercultural church planting is one of the most overlooked subjects in the area of congregation multiplication. The course begins with the definition of contextualization and finds in the Bible the guidelines for practicing it in the work of the Kingdom of God. You will learn the theory of contextualizing and you will be given practical tools. You will understand how the Gospel is designed to be contextualized and how you can adapt it to your own church planting situation.

## Sessions Overview

1. Introduction
2. **Errors in Contextualization**
3. The Gospel, Culture and Shaping your Church's Culture
4. Faithful Contextualization
5. Bridging the Gospel into Culture - Step 1
6. Bridging the Gospel into Culture - Step 2
7. Active and Practical Bridging
8. Networking!
9. More Networking!
10. Research and SWOT
11. Church Planting Models
12. Church Plant Birthed out of Existing Churches, & out of nothing - part I
13. Church Plants Birthed out of Nothing Part II

### Session Summary

Looking at several biblical and theological pillars upon which the church planter does the work of contextualization, we are now able to come to a full definition for ‘contextualization’. This, in turn, helps us understand that we always analyze culture and context from the perspective of being God’s ‘contrast society’. Transformation of society cannot come through conformity to this world.

### Fill in the Blanks

1. “God transcends any culture’s definition.” Explain in your own words what does that mean?

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2. What is in common to Israel in the world and the Church in the world in terms of contrast?

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3. Beck explains that there are two opposite understandings of what contextualization should look like. Describe them, point out the wrong one, and explain what is the desired effect of the correct one.

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4. Right or wrong: The Bible itself was written in a specific culture. It must always to be contextualized to each new cultures it meets.

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Hint: The Old Testament was composed over a period longer than a 1000 years.

Explain

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5. Right or wrong: Every culture has to adapt itself to the culture in which the Bible was written in.

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