

Session 3



The Gospel, Culture
and Shaping your
Church's Culture

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

In this lecture, Dr. Beck moves into the relationship between the Gospel of King Jesus, the work of contextualization, and the church the planter wishes to plant. 'Contextualization' has become a 'scare word' for some evangelicals. Beck gives a helpful history of the use and understanding of 'contextualization'. This enables us to avoid the grave errors of old-time liberalism as well as the more recent emergent church.

Fill in the Blanks

1. „The more multicultural a society is, the more _____ does contextualization become.”
2. Cultural compounds
are... _____

3. Cultural narratives
are... _____

4. Who is Shoki Coe and what was his famous contribution?

5. Try to describe what is/are the danger/s in trying to fit Scripture to culture?

6. Try to define 'syncretism of contextualization'. Use external sources in addition to Beck's teaching if needed.

7. Why can the word contextualization be misunderstood?

8. Here is some space to work on Becks assignment given at the end of the video.

a. Romans 1-2

b. 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

c. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
