

# Session 4



# Faithful 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

Professor Beck starts with some conclusions from the homework assignment, drawing important working principles for the person planting a new church community. This lecture is vital for being able to fully engage with one's culture while still being a 'contrast society' within the culture. You will learn to do this by understanding the true liberating message of the Gospel and receiving the true authority to correctly analyze and engage ungodly elements in cultures.

## Fill in the Blanks

1. "We need to be impacted and shaped \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in order to cross the bridge into the culture we are to impact \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."
2. According to Beck, the Gospel can be defined this way: "In and of myself I am more \_\_\_\_\_ than I ever dared to \_\_\_\_\_, but in \_\_\_\_\_ I am more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ than I ever dared to \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "The Gospel calls for \_\_\_\_\_ from culture, in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the culture \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Condescending over a culture because of pride or being afraid of judgmentalism because of misplaced humility are both possible in the case of religious ("Pharisaical") people. Explain.  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. However, if you are set free by the Gospel, you know that what matters is how \_\_\_\_\_ views you. This makes you \_\_\_\_\_ to analyze the culture and understand how to address the elements that are ungodly.
6. Describe in short, how Paul spoke differently to Jews and Pagans?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Michael Green: "This is true apologetic and also true evangelism where the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel is preserved while the \_\_\_\_\_ is tuned to the ears of the recipient."

8. What does 1 Thessalonians 1:5 mean?

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