



DISENCULTURATION

GETTING STARTED...

The task of the missionary is to communicate the gospel accurately *and* contextually. Hudson Taylor is a great example of this. He brought the gospel message but discerned what was biblical Christianity and what was cultural baggage. Unlike other British missionaries of his day, he did not require converts to dress in the style of western Christians, rather, he grew out his hair, put it in a ponytail and dressed in the traditional clothing of the Chinese locals. The question we must ask ourselves is, what is central to the gospel and what is simply cultural clothing that we have dressed it up in?

'Disenculturation' is the task of disentangling the gospel from its more dubious cultural forms and expressions. As Christians in a particular culture it can be hard for us to distinguish between the gospel itself and all the trappings that we assume come along with it but that are actually extrabiblical.

READ THE TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:20-23

²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

1. How do people view the work of missionaries in our day?
2. How has the church been guilty of promoting culture over gospel?

REFLECTING THE WORD

3. What does it mean to "become as one under the law" or "as one outside the law" in the context of 1st Corinthians?
4. What is Paul saying that he is willing to give up? What is he gaining?

APPLYING OUR BEAUTIFUL FAITH

5. How does understanding the gospel help us distinguish between biblical teaching and culture?
6. What are appropriate ways of using our culture to show the gospel?

PRAY!

1. Is there someone you know who is dealing with this issue? How can you be praying and helping them during this time?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?

EXTRA RESOURCES:

[*Deconstruct Your Culture, Not Your Faith* \(Hunter Beaumont\)](#)

[*What Would Jesus Deconstruct* \(James Walden & Greg Willson\)](#)

[*How Should We Think About Contextualization In Missions?* \(Zane Pratt\)](#)



How to Use THIS Guide

This Life Group Guide is going to function slightly differently than our regular sermon guides. Due to the topical nature of the series and sensitive nature of the topics, the guide is going to be tailored to the subject each week.

Our goal in life groups is always to understand the Word of God and this series is no different. However, we are also analyzing the culture we live in which takes work. Each week will have a section with questions to help us understand the world that we live in. Then we want to have a clear understanding of the Word of God. From this understanding we can then begin to build up and apply our Beautiful Faith. Our goal is not to break our faith down, but to build it up!

As this series has a number of challenging topics, we are also giving out extra resources in each guide. These will be primarily articles that you can access online, however if you are interested in more on each topic, please contact one of the pastors and we would be happy to provide you with more.

Our goal in all our life group guides is to facilitate conversations that are based on the Word of God and lead us to follow Jesus. Our prayer is that even as we navigate challenging waters, that God would use these resources to help you and your groups to follow and glorify God!

*“Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*