

## Chapter 2 Interaction Paper

By studying what culture, ethnocentrism, and contextualization are, one can understand the gospel through different lenses of perspective.

In Chapter 2 by Rynkiewicz, the author lays the foundation of humans' brain and their functionality. He thoroughly writes the start of anthropology and how anthropologists have studied the mankind by defining what a culture is: "Culture is a more or less integrated system of knowledge, values and feelings that people use to define their reality (worldview), interpret their experiences, and generate appropriate strategies for living" (Rynkiewicz 19). Humankind from different regions have developed each different culture and is embedded in their lifestyles. Rynkiewicz explains that cultures are caught and not taught. From this, ethnocentrism is birthed. People have put on lenses of their own culture and see the world based on what they know and what they have grew up with. For example, we do not call northernmost latitudes "Eskimos", Yoruba of western Nigeria named Europeans "Onibo", and Greeks have called all other people "barbarians" (Rynkiewicz 25).

Then how do we connect culture and the gospel? It is interesting that Jesus had to learn the Jewish culture for 30 years before starting His ministry. He had to learn the language, the customs, proverbs, and metaphors so that he can properly teach Jewish people. Without fully learning the Jewish culture, Jesus would not have been able to connect the Jews.

Two questions for further engaging this topic are..

1. Can cultures be unlearned?
2. Can a person learn a culture without ever learning the language?