

## Chapter 4 Interaction Paper

- I. One sentence thesis statement
  - a. Another important aspect of understanding people groups is to take a look at what the self means and how it is in correlation to community, society, and others.
- II. One paragraph summary
  - a. Rynkiewich begins by describing how culture, society, and ecology all impact anthropology and the study of culture. The person in culture and society is something that is unique to various groups. Some cultures believe the person creates social relationships and others believe the other way around. Social identity is also a component to understanding culture as status and roles are given, created, and innated to people. Rynkiewich also touches on simplex and multiplex relationships which are distinct ways in which societies interact. Simplex societies have relationships where roles are mutually understood, and one can leave the role if the relationship desires more than one role. Multiplex, on the other hand, requires more than one person with more than one role making the dynamic involving multiple facets of life. Lastly, shame-honor and guilt-sin culture is discussed and how the two impact how Christianity can be perceived or taught in nonwestern societies. With all of this knowledge, Rynkiewich stresses the importance of cultural understanding to best serve people in Christ.
- III. Personal interaction with specific themes in the readings
  - a. One piece that struck to me was the sin-guilt approach to a society. Although I come from a collectivist background, most of my adult experiences have occurred in an individualist society. I understand the concept of saving face to an extent,

but the individualistic side of me cannot agree to the sin approach of telling a whole people group that they are sinners and then living with that burden. It would take more than this understanding to really appreciate the goodness of God, but I would be willing to see how other missionaries have approached cultures with an honor-shame mindset.

- IV. Two questions for further engaging this topic
  - a. How can westerners best unlearn individualistic tendencies while they are in nonwestern societies, and how can they approach their version of westernized Christianity to a nonwestern society?