

QUESTIONS:

1. How can one define culture?
2. How can someone effectively interpret the revelation of God's Word for a today's message?
3. What do the Wisdom books offer throughout the OT that connects us cross-culturally?
4. Why would this matter to the people who learn and teach it?
5. What is a good approach with a text when you can't gain the proper historical, cultural, and theological meaning of a text?

ANSWERS:

1. In a broad sense it means, the patterned way people do things together. Culture is learned behavior which socially acquired from one generation to another with material and non-material traits.
2. We must be able to enter into a cross-cultural communication, not seeing it in our modern-day terms but looking at the tools that were available to the writers in their time, way and language.
3. The wisdom books have a transcultural element that points to the way of finding values that all cultures and times can embrace without feeling that their own culture has been compromised or cheated.
4. It matters because it allows people to understand how connected we are without having to change who we are. This will in turn connect us to our ancestors and maybe even come into agreement that in order for things to work we can follow the direction of the books.
5. It is always good to err on the side of being humble and refusing to be cavalier with the text than it is to always assume that the most risky the stand, the more acceptable it is among those who prize creativity as being whatever is new and novel for its own sake.

DEFINITIONS:

Cross-Cultural Communication – a communication between people who have differences in age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, race and employment. Cross cultural communication can also refer to the attempts that are made to exchange, negotiate and mediate cultural differences by means of language, gestures and body language.

Ethno-Hermeneutics – attempts to locate the scholar and the people under study in each their own network of discourses, traditions, texts and meanings in the context of their social and intellectual circumstances.

Reductionism – the practice of analyzing and describing a complex phenomenon in terms of phenomena that are held to represent a simpler or more fundamental level, especially when this is said to provide a sufficient explanation.

Inexactitude - The characteristic or quality of being inexact; a lack of precision, accuracy, or certainty.

SUMMARY:

Although culture is not easily defined it is a part of who we all are. It is something that is ingrained in us from the beginning, but it should not be something that separates us from each other. When obeying the Word, we must think of it as a cross-cultural journey that will allow us to look at the word, think about the writers and the times they were in and think about the message we want to convey using that text. In order to get the word of God across to the audience that we are trying to connect to we should acknowledge who they are, what their culture is and what were they trying to convey to their audience. We then have to process or contextualize it as it relates to the witness, the church and its leadership and the Word. It is not easy at first to learn how to interpret the Word but when we are open to realizing that the Word was written by people who are just like us that come with the same and different background then it would be easier to connect to and not try to separate from the culture of the writers, churches and audiences.