

Cultural celebrations
Self-study and Classroom Use

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Preface and introduction

The aim of this book is to introduce the holidays in United states; Although, you may know them, but it can provide you an answer to your questions like:

Why do people celebrate these day ?

What do they do?

And so on.

We must understand how to communicate to multiple cultures because of...

1. The Rise of Domestic Workforce Diversity

People from all over the world are moving to the United States to work in our industries. According to the U.S. Census data for 2010, 12 percent of the total U.S. population are foreign-born nationals. Another 11 percent are native born with at least one foreign-born parent. This means each of these 1st and 2nd generation Americans are part of our community and must be reached with the good news of Jesus and welcomed into our churches.

2. The Increase of Technology in Global Communication

Social media has changed everything. People who think alike can find each other with incredible ease. Birds of a feather will create, distribute, and like the same page. It is also easier to be confronted by someone who thinks differently. Someone from a differing viewpoint has the ability to analyze and critique anything you choose to write. Therefore, followers of Christ must be able to deftly interact with various viewpoints without compromising Christian doctrine or misrepresenting the person of Jesus. We must speak the truth in love.

3. The Challenges inherent in Intercultural Relationships

With the demise of forced segregation and the shameful Jim Crow Laws we have welcomed a dramatic rise in intercultural relationships. Entire groups of people who once had little interaction with one another are now working together, living together, and worshipping together. This is a beautiful thing and represents what we will see in the Eternal Kingdom of Heaven. However, these blessings are not without their challenges. Language barriers, cultural taboos, and ethnic traditions can easily become dangerous pits in which a wise minister must avoid falling. He can stay safe by understanding, mingling, and appreciating various cultures.

4. The Dangers of Ethnocentrism

Seeing your own culture as superior and other cultures as inferior is the height of ignorance and pride, both of which are condemned in the Scripture. You may prefer a McDonald's hamburger above a bowl of rice, but your meal is not superior simply because YOU prefer it. It

simply means you prefer it. You happened to be raised in a culture that taught you to value a meaty sandwich over a steamed bowl of grain. There is no danger in preferring one above the other. The danger is in believing or declaring that one is right and the other is wrong with little Scriptural support. To avoid this trap we must be aware of our own cultural biases and reject the temptation to establish our preferences as RIGHT or Biblical.

The order of chapters, in this book, is based on the calendar, however you are not necessarily meant to study them respectively; but, make sure you study all the units.

Most of us as English learners know how to communicate in English but, we don't think of holidays and American culture as a necessary mean of learning them. However, this attitude is not true and knowing them is a must; due to knowing what to say, how to act, why you should celebrate and most importantly where the language you are eager to learn comes from.

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