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Showing Compassion in Honor-Shame Cultures.

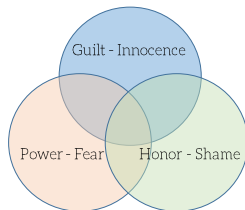
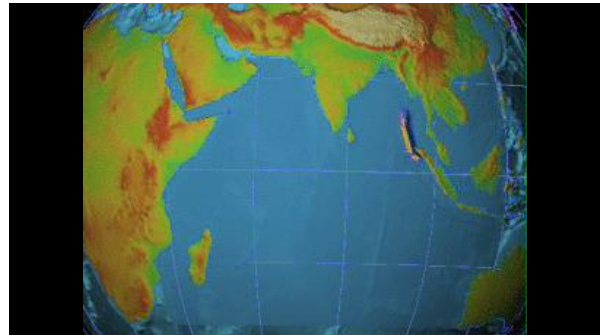
Understand misunderstandings when reaching out with compassion in honor shame cultures.

When believers engage in showing God’s love in practical ways to people from honor-shame cultures, misunderstandings abound! When we show Christ’s love, they may interpret it as merit making, proselytization and apostasy – however pure our motivation may be – and may trigger unwanted responses. We will look specifically at this from ministry experience among Muslims in SE Asia. Come away with insight that will help you plan and fine-tune your outreach among people from honor-shame cultures at home or on the mission field.

**Showing Compassion
in Honor-Shame Cultures**

Understand misunderstandings when reaching out with compassion in honor-shame cultures.

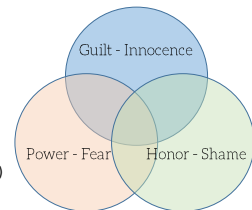
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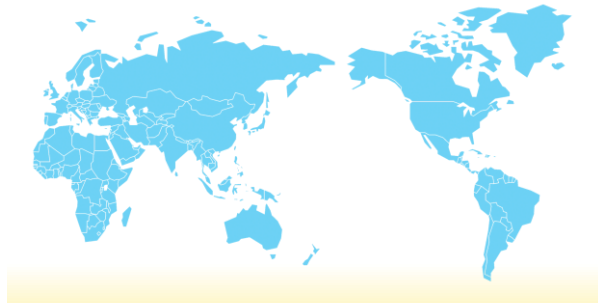


Shame = fear, pain or state of being devalued according to

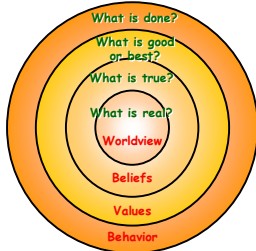
- One's own standards
- Social standards
- Sacred standards

(Jackson Wu)
Shame = about who you are (seen as)
Guilt = about what you have done

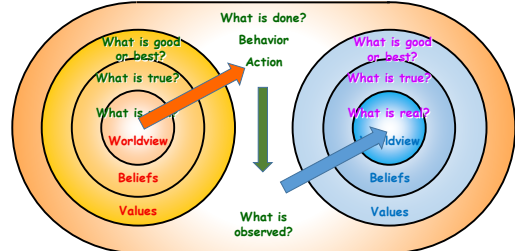




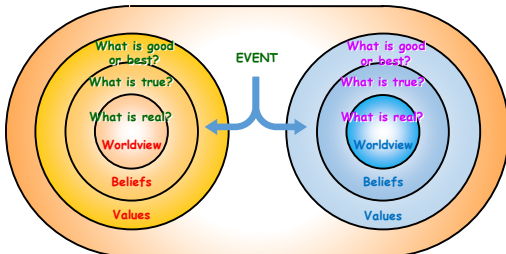
UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



what is done by one is observed by the other

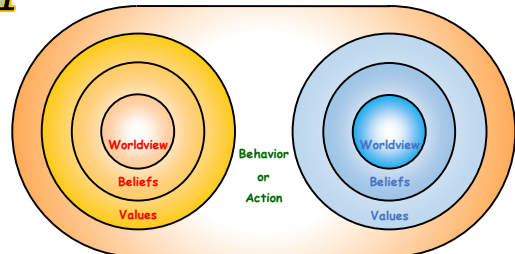


different interpretations and responses to an event



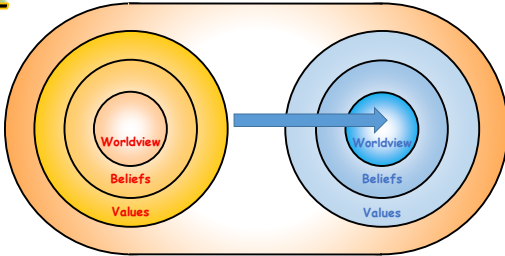
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Worldview differences



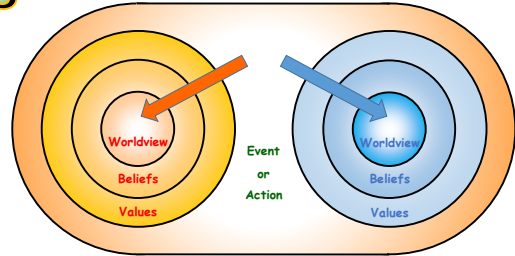
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How do they see us?



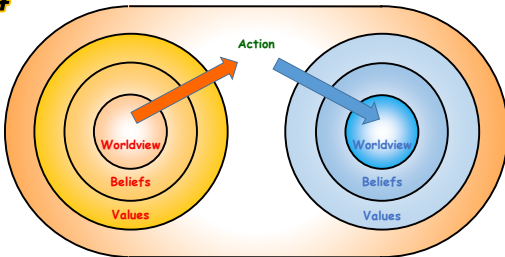
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Making sense of an event

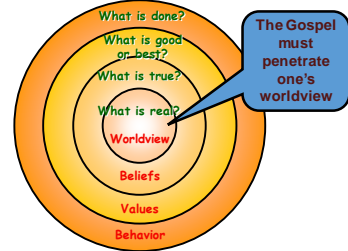


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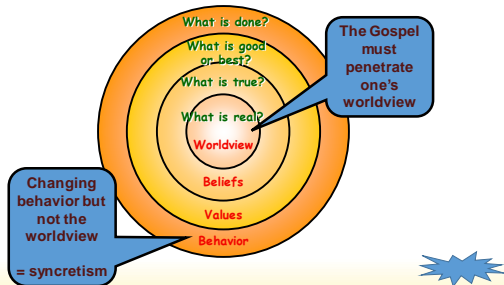
Our response and how it is interpreted



UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



Physical Needs

- Urban Poor:
- economic
 - health
 - environmental
 - education
 - disabled
 - drugs
 - street children
 - prostitution
 - domestic abuse



Physical Needs

- the poor (rural)
- environmental
- migration to city
- transmigration
- trafficking, slavery
- war, terrorism
- refugees, IDPs
- pandemics



Physical Needs

Disasters:

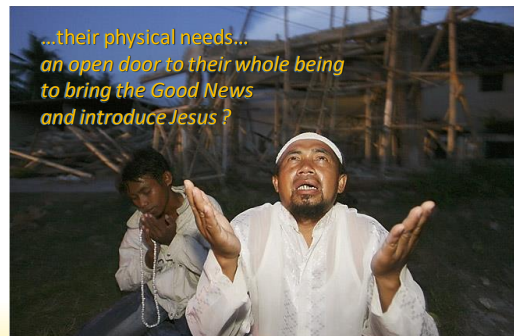
- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Landslides
- Tsunamis
- Volcanic eruptions
- Accidents (planes, trains, ferries, fires...)



NEEDS in the Muslim World

- 60% of the world's poorest people are Muslim
- 75% of the world's refugees are Muslim

(adapted from Keith Swartley in Encountering the World of Islam, p46)



*In the context of their other questions
(honor-shame struggles among themselves)*

- What is the real face of Islam?



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- What is the real face of Islam?



In the context of their other questions
(honor-shame struggles among themselves)

• globalization



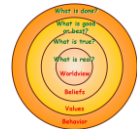
When Worldviews Clash
while showing compassion



From a Muslim Point of View

How Christians Convert Muslims:

- Education (young children)
- Health care, Medicine
- Philanthropy (giving out food, school fees...)
- Book publishing
- Internet, media
- Dating, pregnancy, marriage
- Drugs (plus rehabilitation)
- Mysticism, spells



<http://viva-khifah.blogspot.com/2008/09/motif-kristenisasi-menjadi-kan-orang.html>

From a Muslim Point of View

What are our motives giving help?

- making money: paid by a big organization
- merit making: getting blessings from God
- superiority: our ways are better so we come to you
- gaining power: imposing culture and values in order to exploit
- making converts: development is just a pretext



note the honor aspects in these motives!

Paul Bender Samuel, Interview - Initial Reflections on Islamic Ministries in an Islamic Context, St. Francis Magazine No. 2 Vol. III (September 2007)



Five Pillars of Islam

Practice depends more on conforming to rules than to principles from the heart = achieved honor



- Declaration of faith
- Prayer 5x daily
- Almsgiving (1/40th)
- Fasting month
- Pilgrimage to Mecca

Worldview Differences

ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
man: weak (=sin), knowledge is the issue, obedience overcomes	man: made in the image of God + sin (depravity): needs an external savior
One, a distant God we cannot get to know and who can do anything he wants to.	Trinity, relational, loving (already before creating anything), intimately involved in our lives.
God's rule thru Sharia (external)	God's rule from within (Holy Spirit), overflowing outwardly
unity in community → uniformity religion = culture = law = society	unity in diversity, many cultures, individuality also acknowledged, the church



- "If God wills" ('the Lord willing')
- Practically "Whatever happens is God's will"

Allah's moral character is ultimately unknowable, and Allah's ways are beyond all understanding. Muslims are not certain about God's ultimate attitude or will towards them (incl. forgiveness)

<http://www.30-days.net/reveal/fatalism/>

a distant love

- Allah's names are *the most merciful* الرَّحْمَنُ and *most loving* الرَّؤُوفُ, but for practical reasons he is primarily *judge and ruler*.
- Allah is not known in the day to day affairs of the life of a Muslim (searching for that power/love)

Ar-Rahmaan = most or entirely merciful, Al-Wadood = most loving (<https://99namesofallah.name/>)

Perhaps nothing more separates Christianity from Islam more than the attitude toward suffering

For the Muslim, suffering is not part of God's will, but a part of weakness.

Islam denies the cross, not from historical certainty, but out of theological necessity.

to suffer = shame



➔➔ Two Different Ways

Theological opposites as illustrated by their origins:

Islam begins when the prophet Mohammed flees Mecca from suffering and persecution and goes to Medina (the *Hijra*). There he builds up political and military power as tools for his purposes and own freedom.

Christianity begins with Christ, God incarnate, refusing the way of military and political power, and choosing suffering and persecution in order to set a sin-suffering humanity free.

Honor & Shame

Power, wealth, success and even knowledge are signs of God's blessing or of being on "God's side"

There is no right to change your religion (out of Islam)

"A Muslim who renounces Islam has, in Allah's judgment, forfeited his right to live; he has committed ... high treason" (Imam Muhammad A-Ali, Imam of the Islamic Center, Washington, D.C., 2005)



From a Muslim Point of View:
'Historic' Honor-Shame issues

"Christians have sinned against Muslims" {crusades, colonial period, Israel, ...}

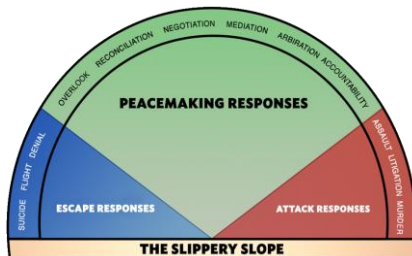
Christians don't have God's latest revelation, Christianity is only second best...

➔ Just being attached to something associated with Christianity can bring a sense of shame.

How Muslims make sense of:
- Suffering of good Muslims?
- Outsiders that come to help?

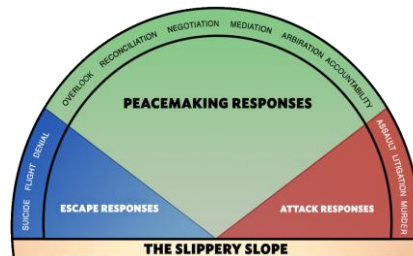


in CONFLICT



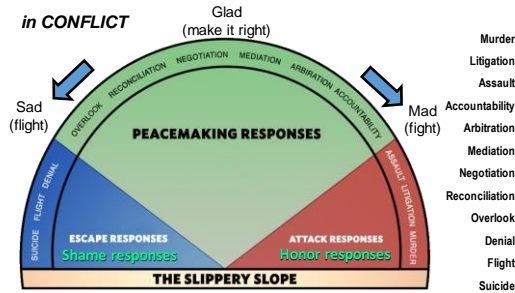
Ken Sande - "The Peacemaker" www.peacemaker.net

in CONFLICT

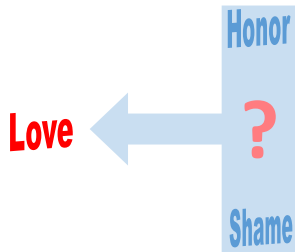
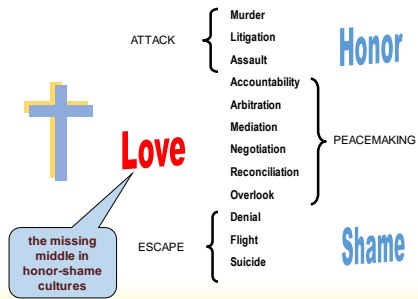
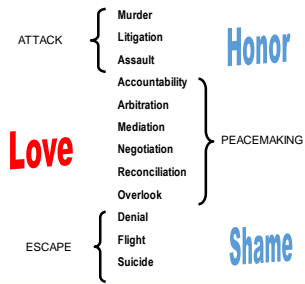
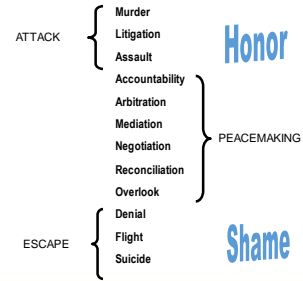


- Murder
- Litigation
- Assault
- Accountability
- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Negotiation
- Reconciliation
- Overlook
- Denial
- Flight
- Suicide

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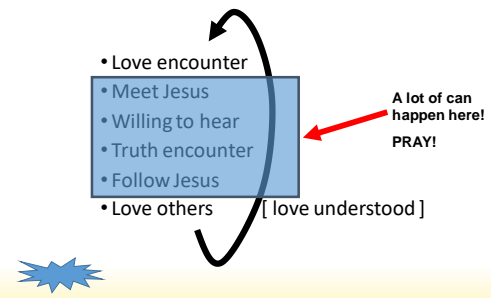
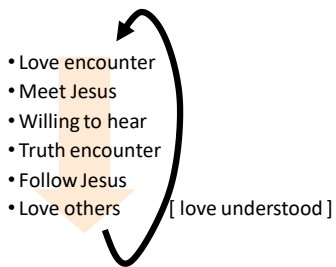
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- Love encounter
 - OR
 - Power encounter
 - Revelation
 - Relationship
 - Truth encounter

- Love encounter

- Love encounter
- Restoration & Meet Jesus
- Willing to hear
- Truth encounter
- Follow Jesus
- Love others [love understood]



1

- You can honor a king by just **obeying** his rules, but a king is even more honored (or glorified) when his subjects **love** him. The invitation is to give God the greatest honor!

the missing middle in honor shame cultures

2

- **God is the greatest** (*Allahu Akbar*) in all things, i.e. **He has the highest honor** in all things, including love.
- **Love is greatest** when someone gives His life for others.
- God has demonstrated, and has given us, this greatest and most honored love in Christ, His death and resurrection.

the missing middle in honor shame cultures

3 Know 'Honor-Shame' when sharing the Good News!

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (Westminster Shorter Catechism)
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - (Romans 3:23)

- Our sin:
- Offends, dishonors God. **His** creation tainted.
 - Is **our** shame before God, ourselves, and others.

- The solution:
- The Cross, Love, Grace; Jn 3:16, Ro 5:8

Becoming part of a New Community



4 Whose Honor Do We Seek In Compassion?

What drives us? We ourselves are loved with the Greatest Love. We are not seeking merit or honor for ourselves. We are God's channels to restore His honor, based on His already finished work.

- Kinds of "Christian" ministry:
- 1) Demonstrating what Christians and our values are? (How great these are, how good we feel, defending those)
 - 2) Showing God and inviting under his Lordship? Meeting Jesus? Man shall not live from bread alone (nor healthcare, justice, ...) – he would still fall short of the glory of God.

Let us not confuse the effect and expressions with the source itself
 Missions is *living from and inviting* to the Source and is *expressed and demonstrated* in Compassion

4b

Some Checkpoints:

- Do I serve *from grace* or *for honor*? Is my love for Jesus greater than those I love, serve, my love for 'my ministry'?
- Can I recognize, or will I trust, God's sovereignty into the situation to where He sends me to show compassion, and keep focused on the source?
- Did Jesus have to die for this?

*The commitment to social change will inevitably at some point come into **conflict** with the desire to see men and women become disciples of Jesus. The only way forward in this dilemma is to **resist all pressure to compartmentalize** our lives and pursue our calling in a holistic way.*

Paul Bender Samuel, Interserve - Initial Reflections on Holistic Ministries in an Islamic Context. St. Francis Magazine Nr.2 Vol.III (September 2007)

5

Reaching Communities & Networks

Seeking the honor of the community by outreach

- Permission and ownership from the local leaders
- Empowering = honoring. Cf Helping without Hurting (chalmers.org) – ABCD: Asset Based Community Development
- Incarnational & contextual: honoring the culture

Discern Opposition

- Outsiders will misinterpret
- Avoiding extraction (of families, individuals)

1. Greatest honor is received when being most loved.
2. Greatest God = Greatest Love = Greatest Sacrifice (suffering) ⇒ incarnation, trinity.
3. The gospel: Restores God's and our honor, a new community.
4. Give God's love, let people meet Him; not us, not our honor. Don't compartmentalize.
5. Reach (love) and empower a community, not individuals.

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Questions, Comments?

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