



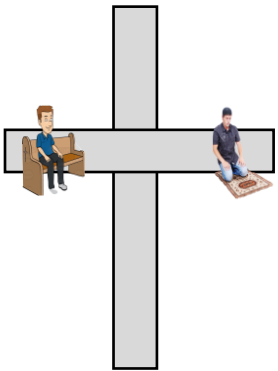
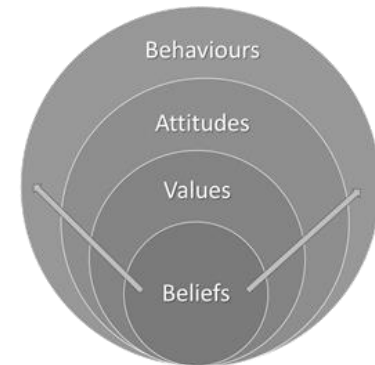
**Talk #2:  
Culture, Context, Change & the  
Gospel**

**ThED**  
**Theological Education & Discussion**



## The Inevitability of Culture – Acts 17:26-27; Revelation 7:9-10

- Culture is what makes you a stranger when you are away from home
- Culture is a pattern of beliefs, values, and behaviours
- Countries will have cultures; workplaces will have a culture, a church will have a culture
- There is no one ‘right’ culture but we feel comfortable in the culture with which we’re familiar
- Sometimes the cultures we are in war with each other: church culture vs. workplace culture



## The Need for Contextualization – 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23; Acts 2:1-11

- It’s hard to move from culture to culture
- We often don’t understand the ‘why’ of other cultures
  - The gospel is not chained to one culture
- New Testament Christians might be horrified by the way our churches operate
- Sometimes we confuse something in our culture with the gospel- such as the right way to worship
- We need to separate the eternal truth of God from our culture so that we don’t create barriers to evangelism and outreach

## The Crisis of Change – Acts 11: 1-18; 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23; Acts 6: 1-7

- God brings change so that we may reach new people -
- Change is always hard, often is misunderstood or opposed
- Change must be led by the Holy Spirit and must serve God’s kingdom



## The Danger of Compromise – Romans 12:2

- In any change, we cannot do evil to try and bring good – Rev. 2: 12-17
- We cannot change things or organize in ways just to make us feel comfortable – Rev. 3:14-22
- We are to be IN the world but not OF the world – John 17:6