

Session 2—Helping Others See Themselves

The Skin I Live In

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NOTES:

- **“Culture” vs. “Ethnic”**

- Acculturation can imply that “my culture is better than yours”
- Only the aspects of culture that are against the Gospel should change
- God made us different, so the goal is not to become “color blind”

- **Good solutions require good strategies (picking up from Session 1 in Gal. 2:6-11)**

- The problem in Antioch was public, so the solution had to be public, too
- Today our vision to be diverse must be defended in order to survive
- Must address the source of the problem without attacking the person

- **Learning from how Paul dealt with the issue**

- **Lovingly explain**
 - A cross-cultural environment is different than a mono-cultural one
 - Beware unintentionally shunning; it undermines acceptance and belonging
 - Our actions must unite, not divide
- **Firmly confront**
 - Old habits are hard to spot and break without outside help
 - We all need coaches and critiquing
 - Consider having a preaching coach who is sensitive to cross-cultural communication . . .
 - ... and who can hold up a social mirror for you
- **Politely demand change**
 - Ethno-centric vs. ethno-conscious
 - Model unity in a divided society



REFLECT and DISCUSS

Take some time for individual reflection. Then discuss these questions with others.

1. How would you explain in simple words the difference between your culture and your ethnicity?

2. If someone asked you what the Bible says about culture, which passage(s) would you turn to, and what would you say?

3. Paul's solution in this situation was three-fold: lovingly explain, firmly confront, and politely demand change.
 - a. How prepared do you believe we in The Navigators are to do the same with one another?

 - b. Where would you want us to start?

 - c. What might prevent us from doing this for one another?

4. If The Navigators don't address the issue of intercultural relationships and competence, what unintended effects might that have?

5. Read **Acts 1:8**. Is it enough for Christians to be intentional students of their own culture, or should they also become intentional students of other nearby cultures? Explain.

6. During the next 5-6 messages and sermons you hear, or Christian writing you read, notice specific cultural comments made (i.e., jokes, illustrations, food, movies, examples, etc.). How mono-cultural/limiting or multi-cultural/inclusive are they?

SUGGESTED APPLICATION: The next time you give a message, purposely include at least three references that are intentionally multi-cultural.

