



# What is Culture?



Cross Cultural Training

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# Importance of Cross-Cultural Training

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- We've learned to exegete scriptures but not exegete cultures.
- “It is evident that there is an imbalance in the time invested in Biblical-theological training and missiological training for missionaries. The great majority of missionaries invest three or four times more time in the first than in the latter. So for the people who are crossing frontiers, into distinct cultures, it is fundamental to consider the balance and relevance that we give to each part.

Training should include an awareness of the different cultures that the missionary will encounter on the field, although it doesn't have to be specific for the group with which he/she plans to work. The curriculum in Bible schools and seminaries, in general, do not consider cross-cultural issues. It is urgent that we reconsider the minimum studies and the specifics that we want to provide to our missionaries. In this way, we can provide quality teaching, focused on the needs of the field.” - COMIBAM 2006 Report

# What is Culture?

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- How would you define “culture”?
- What are the essential parts to a culture?

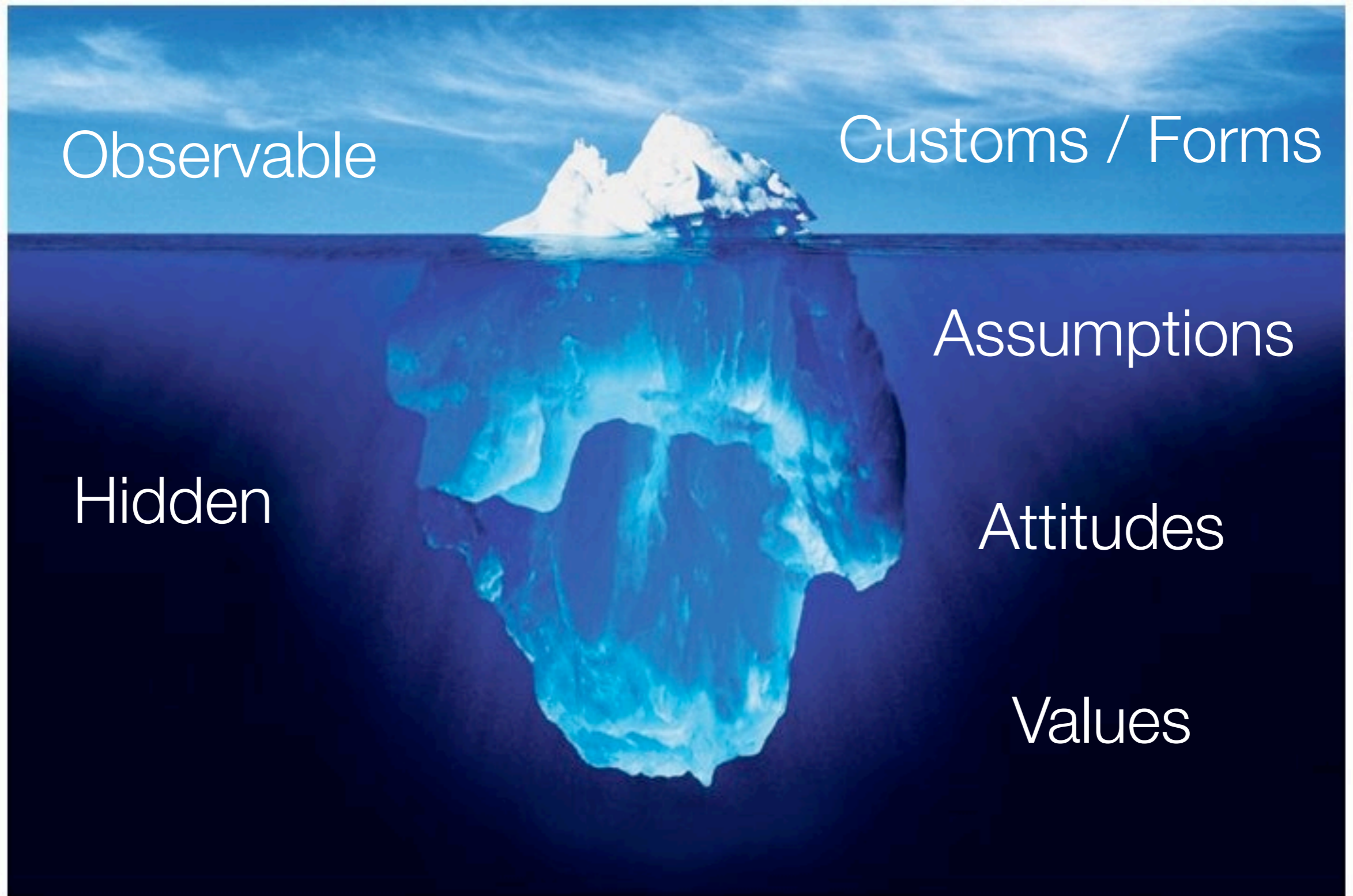


# What is Culture?

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- “Culture is to a human collective what personality is to an individual.” - Hofstede
- “Everything that people have, think, and do as members of a society.” - Ferraro
- “The organized and integrated expression, through a set of agreed upon symbols, of the basic values, unquestioned assumptions and allegiances of a group of people for their common good.” - Young





Iceberg Model of Culture

# Culture Shapes Our Worldview

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- Like a pair of glasses we have on at all times. Everything we see and perceive is colored by our own culture.
- The danger comes when we don't recognize we're wearing glasses.
  - Cultural differences are mistaken for spiritual immaturity.
  - We begin to assume we are “normal”.



# Ethne vs. “Culture”

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- “Jesus tells us to make disciples of all ethne. The power of ethne (people group) imagery to focus people’s strategic thinking began to be used to re-define all kinds of strata of society as a “people group.” So young people, the disabled, prostitutes, or taxi drivers in certain cities (which are actually segments or a strata of society) began to be defined as a “people group.” But this definition is not really an ethne. A better understanding of the term ethne would correspond to an ethno-linguistic/ethno-cultural people group which includes the various strata of youth, urban, rural, rich, poor, disabled, etc.”

-S. Kent Parks and John Scott

[http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/conversations/detail/10535#article\\_page\\_4](http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/conversations/detail/10535#article_page_4)

# The Corporate Dimension to the *Imago Dei*

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- “One of the more fascinating proposals which has been made in theological discussions of the biblical notion of “the image of God” [Imago Dei] is that this image has a “corporate dimension”. That is, there is no one human individual or group who can fully bear or manifest all that is involved in the image of God so that there is a sense in which that image is collectively possessed. The image of God is, as it were, parceled out among the peoples of the earth. By looking at different individuals and groups we get glimpses of different aspects of the full image of God.” - Richard Mouw in *When the Kings Come Marching In*





When Cultures Collide



Culture Stress is Disorienting



Matthew 14:22-33



Becoming 150% People

# Credits

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- photos by “babasteve” <http://www.flickr.com/photos/babasteve/> and “emdot” <http://www.flickr.com/photos/emdot>
- Various ideas, thoughts from:
  - *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb* - Eric Law
  - *Communication Between Cultures* - Samovar & Porter
  - Course Notes, Dr. Mark Young
  - The ever brilliant @destinokristy



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