

H/S-1 to H/S-5: Levels of awareness of honor/shame in cross-cultural ministry

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NOTES:

1) This chart first appeared in *The Global Gospel: Achieving Missional Impact in Our Multicultural World* by Werner Mischke, Scottsdale: Mission ONE, 2015. It is Addendum #2 in the book.

2) A 3,000-word article explaining this chart appeared in the April 2015 issue of EMQ (Evangelical Missions Quarterly). See www.EMQonline.com.

	LEGAL		LEGAL + REGAL		
	LEVEL 1 Unawareness	LEVEL 2 Ethical	LEVEL 3 Functional	LEVEL 4 Evangelical	LEVEL 5 Teleological
Key words	Blind spot	Inferior values	Bible cultures	Gospel message	Glorious kingdom
Level of awareness of honor/shame (HS)	Little to no awareness of honor/shame dynamics; cultural / theological blind spot	Awareness of only the unethical or dark side of honor/shame	Awareness of honor/shame as pivotal cultural value of Bible societies helps to reduce or minimize the Western bias in Scripture interpretation	Awareness of honor/shame dynamics as central to the meaning and proclamation of the gospel of Christ	Awareness of honor/shame dynamics as central to the Bible's narrative of a doxological destiny for Christ and for believers from among all the peoples of the earth
Honor/shame as negative	No awareness	Honor/shame viewed as an unethical value system; it is morally and culturally inferior; it is to be merely understood and then eclipsed by a superior (Western) value system	Dark side of honor/shame is result of the Fall, leading to sinful pathology which permeates personal life, family life, social, global, and universal arenas	Dark side of honor/shame is transcended by having shame covered and honor restored through the gospel of Jesus Christ in one's person, family, and community	Dark forces of honor/shame will be conquered by King Jesus to reclaim the universe from his enemies; all enemies of Christ will be shamed and put under his feet
Honor/shame as positive	No awareness	Little to no awareness of positive aspects of honor/shame dynamics	Awareness of honor/shame as pivotal cultural value of Bible societies; thus, the lens of the authors and original hearers of Scripture; thus an essential, normative hermeneutic to interpret the Bible today	Honor/shame dynamics are central to the gospel of the kingdom of God; honor/shame dynamics are vital to contextualize the gospel of Christ, and are vital for personal spiritual transformation	Honor/shame dynamics are at the crux of God's ultimate purpose; "not yet" (teleological) aspect of the kingdom of God is primary; Christ will be worshiped by all peoples while honoring them in the process
Legal or regal view of the atonement / resurrection	Exclusively legal understanding of the atonement; the cross is for sin/guilt	Primarily legal understanding of the atonement; the cross is for sin/guilt	Gospel of the kingdom embraces both legal and regal aspects of the atonement; the cross is for sin/guilt <i>and</i> sin/shame, for personal and social transformation	Gospel of the kingdom embraces both legal and regal aspects of the atonement; the cross is for sin/guilt <i>and</i> sin/shame; Christ's ascension is the victory of King Jesus over all rivals, all enemies	Gospel of the kingdom points to ultimate purpose of the atonement / ascension—to glorify Christ while also glorifying the redeemed among all the peoples, tribes and nations of the world
Ethical or doxological	No awareness	Ethical only	Ethical and doxological	Primarily doxological	Doxology as goal-destiny of all creation
Strategic issues	In the history of Christian mission, missionaries have sometimes violated honor/shame principles—"Pay to all what is owed to them: ...respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed" (Rom 13:7). When this has happened in honor/shame cultures it sometimes created a long shadow of animosity against the gospel. In light of this, strategic activities are: Learning the honor/shame culture of the Bible ... deep listening ... apology & relationship repair.		Honor/shame dynamics are incorporated into theology, hermeneutics, discipleship, missiology; Western theological bias of legal over regal, (ignoring honor/shame) is recognized as a remnant of colonialism	Honor/shame dynamics offer contextualized gospel for unengaged and unreached peoples; legal and guilt-oriented gospel is relativized to be in balance with honor/shame and regal-based gospel of the kingdom	Honor/shame dynamics facilitate culture of honor in global church collaboration; strong partners relativized to work in unity with weak; creative worship arts for ethnolinguistic harmony honors Christ as King <i>and</i> honors value of all peoples
Book	Section 1	Section 1, 2	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4