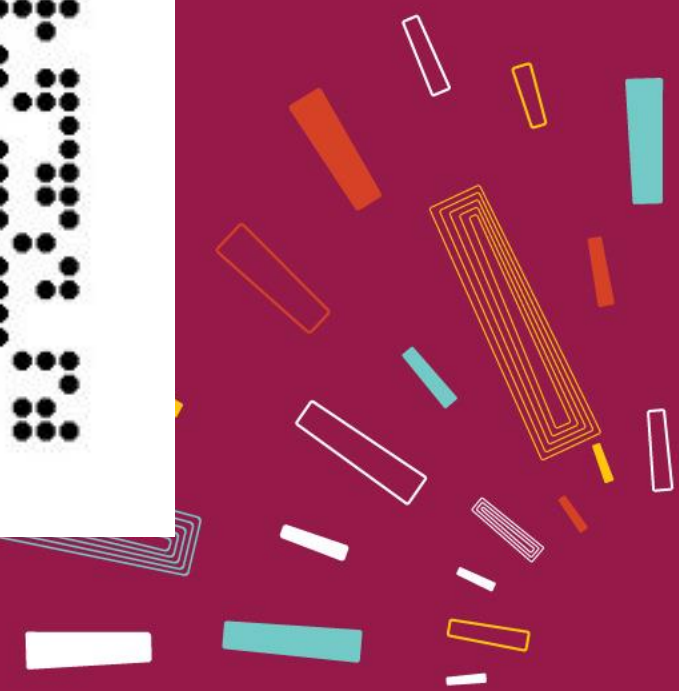


White Saviors?

Being White in Cross-Cultural Ministry

A decorative graphic consisting of numerous small, colorful rectangles in shades of yellow, orange, teal, and white, scattered across the top-left and bottom-right corners of the slide.



What this seminar is NOT about:

What this seminar is NOT about:

- Living in shame or apologizing for the way God made us

What this seminar is NOT about:

- Living in shame or apologizing for the way God made us
- Saying that life is easy if you're white, or that your pain doesn't matter

What this seminar is NOT about:

- Living in shame or apologizing for the way God made us
- Saying that life is easy if you're white, or that your pain doesn't matter
- Only crossing cultures internationally



Matthew 5:23-24

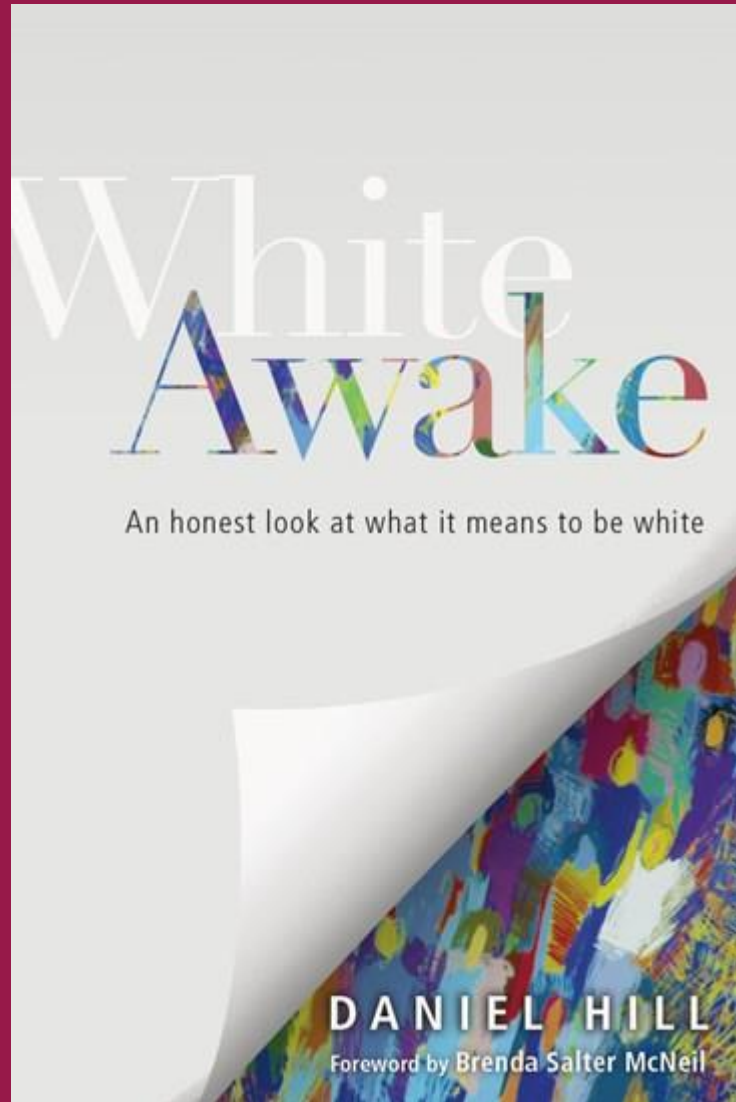
“So if you are offering your gift at the altar
and there remember that your brother has something
against you,

leave your gift there before the altar.

First go and be reconciled to your brother;
then come and offer your gift.”







White Awake:
An honest look at what it means to be white

Daniel Hill
InterVarsity Press
2017

“Daniel, you may be white, but don’t let that lull you into thinking you have no culture. White culture is very real. In fact, when white culture comes in contact with other cultures, it almost always wins. So it would be a really good idea for you to learn about your culture.”

Daniel Hill, quoting a South Asian/Indian friend
White Awake (IVP 2017, p. 4)

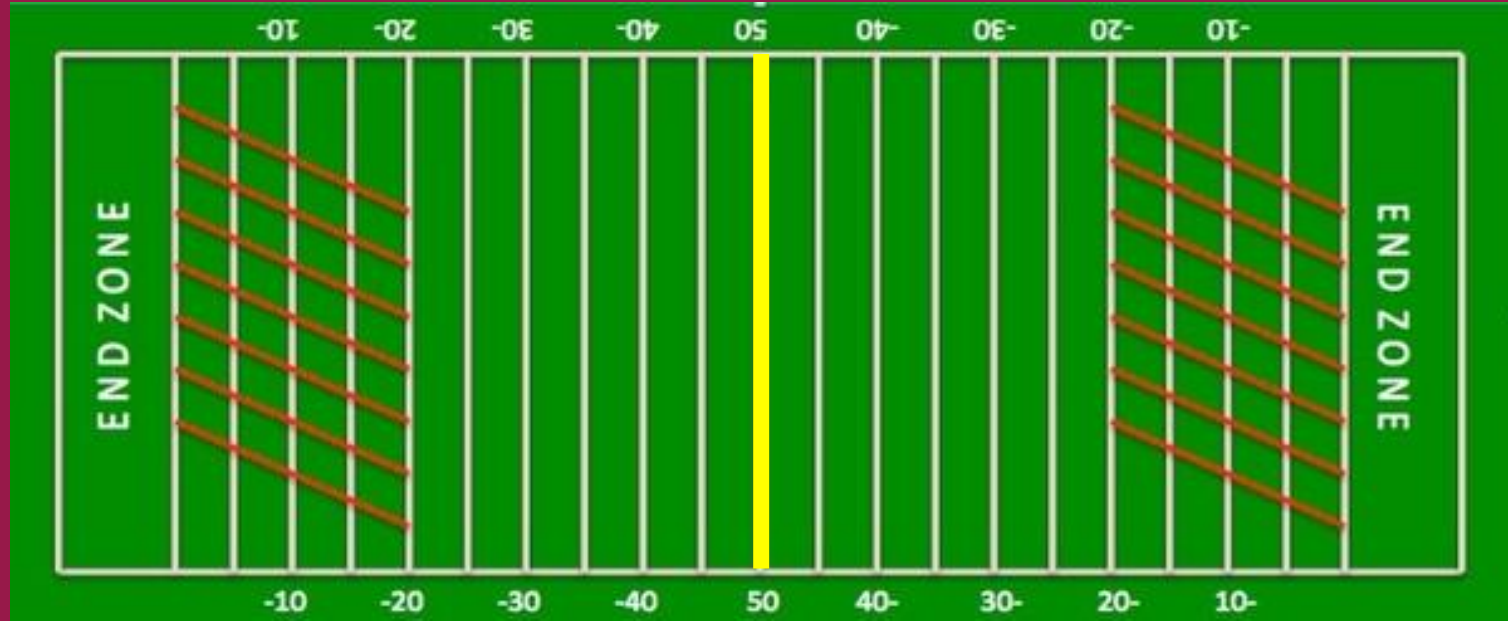
What is White Culture?



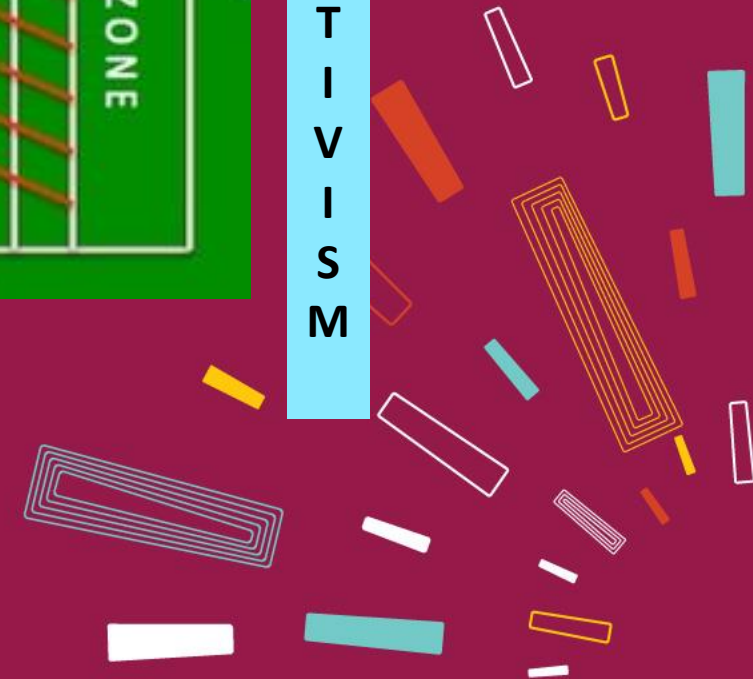




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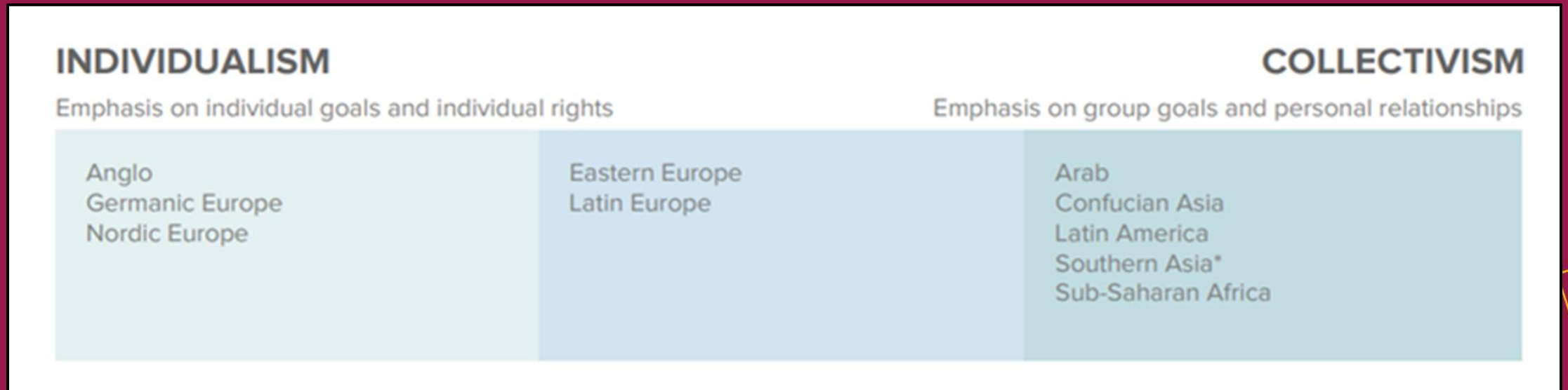
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Individualism vs. Collectivism

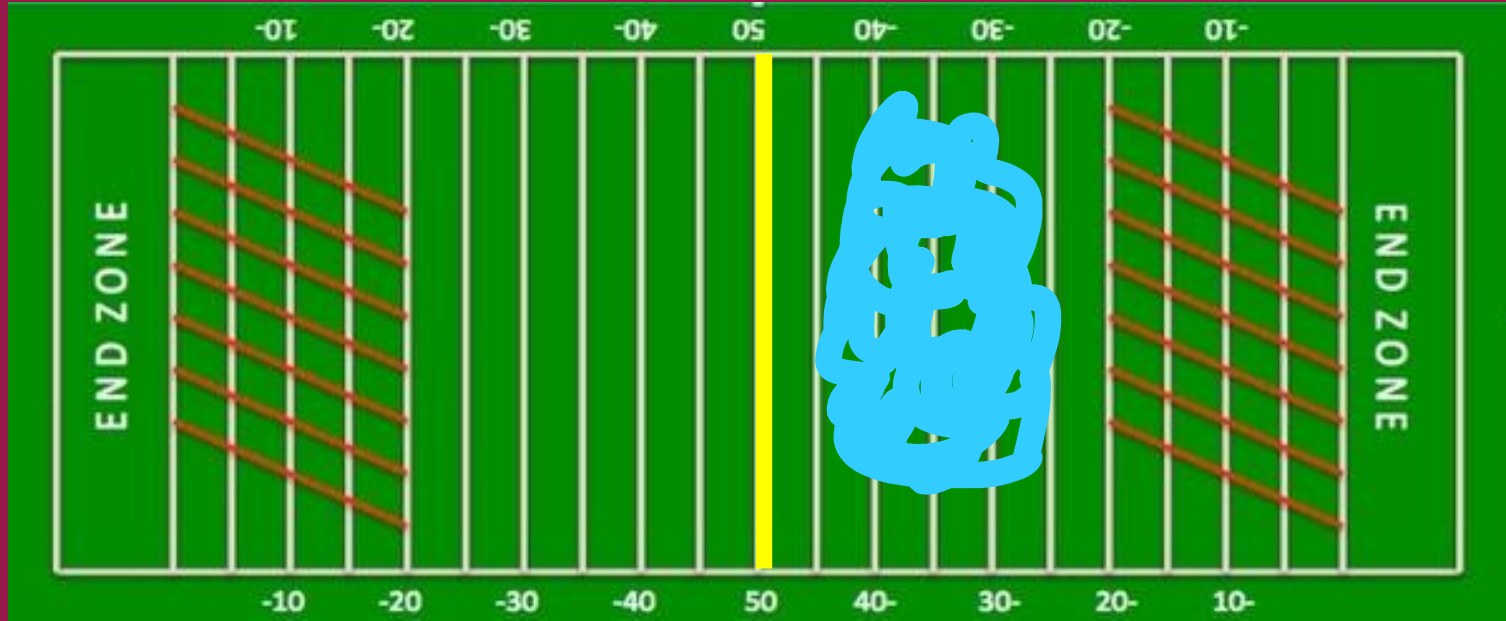
- Decision-making
- Identity

hyper-individualism: the water we swim in

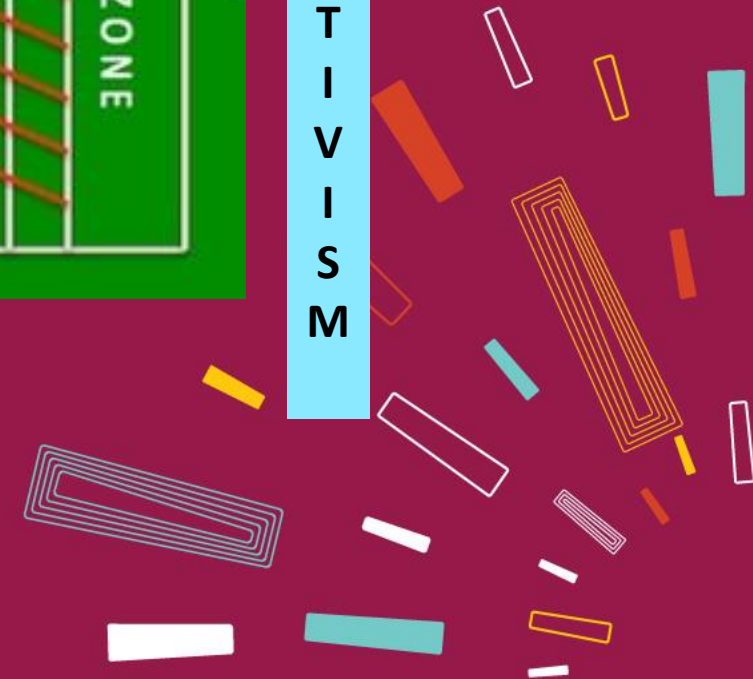


Credit: Cultural Intelligence Center

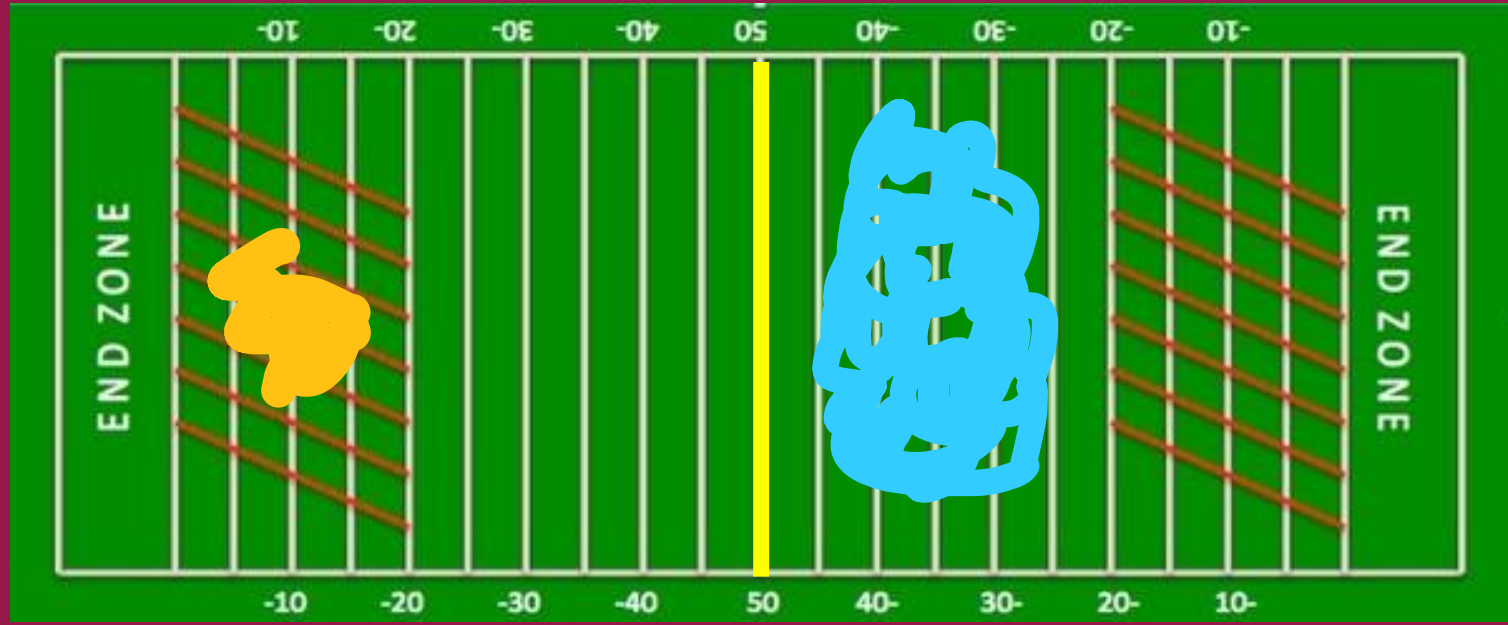
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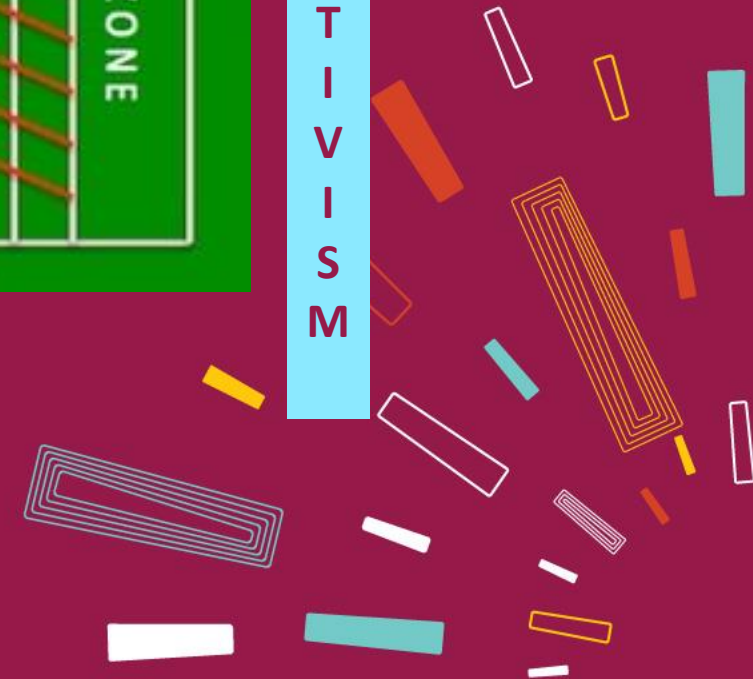
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How does God view us?









What's catching your attention so far?



How does hyper-individualism impact
our relationship with Jesus?

Hyper-Individualism and Christianity

- Faith – private



Hyper-Individualism and Christianity

- Faith – private
- Christian community – optional



Hyper-Individualism and Christianity

- Faith – private
- Christian community – optional
- Scripture – what does it mean “to me”?



Hyper-Individualism and Christianity

- Faith – private
- Christian community – optional
- Scripture – what does it mean “to me”?
- Sin – individual / personal only



How does White American Christian
hyper-individualism impact
our cross-cultural relationships?

Hyper-Individualism & Crossing Cultures

- Racism – individual heart attitude



Hyper-Individualism & Crossing Cultures

- Racism – individual heart attitude
- Defensive posture (“Not my problem!”)



Hyper-Individualism & Crossing Cultures

- Racism – individual heart attitude
- “Not my problem!”
- Failure to connect the dots - isolated incidents



Hyper-Individualism & Crossing Cultures

- Racism – individual heart attitude
- “Not my problem!”
- Isolated incidents
- Blindness to injustice and oppression
- Inadequate solutions



Hyper-Individualism & Crossing Cultures

- Racism – individual heart attitude
- Defensive posture
- Isolated incidents
- Blindness to injustice and oppression
- Inadequate solutions
- No true reconciliation



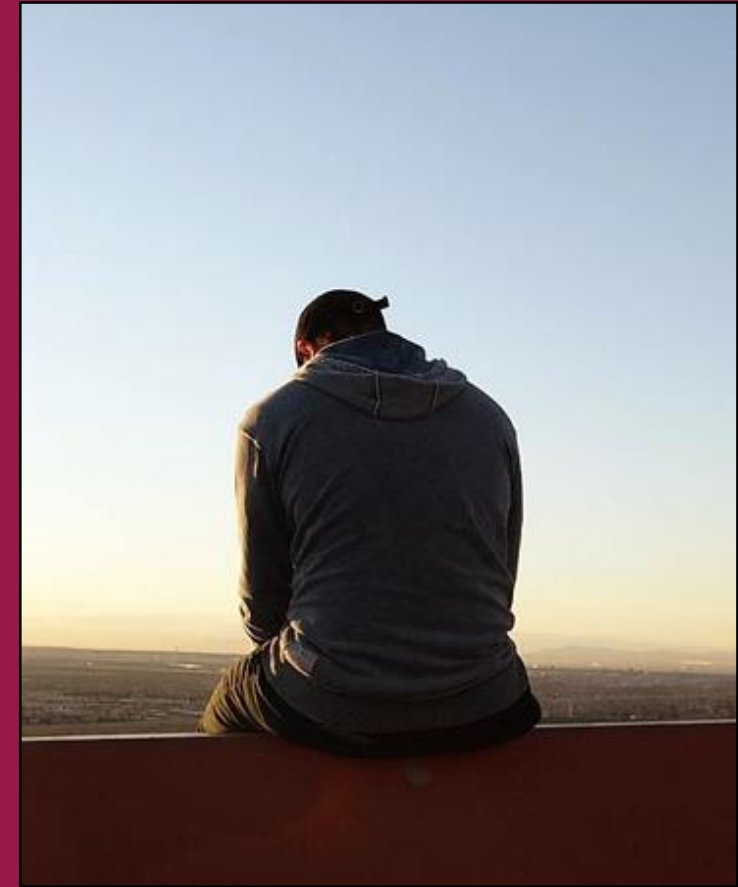
Reflection Question:
Do you see aspects of hyper-
individualism in yourself?

What if ...



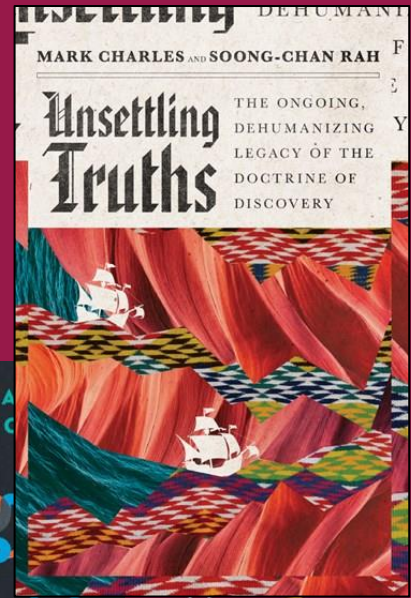
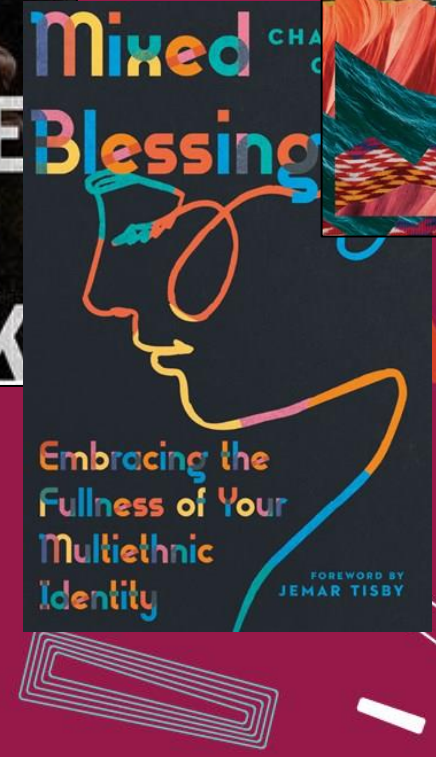
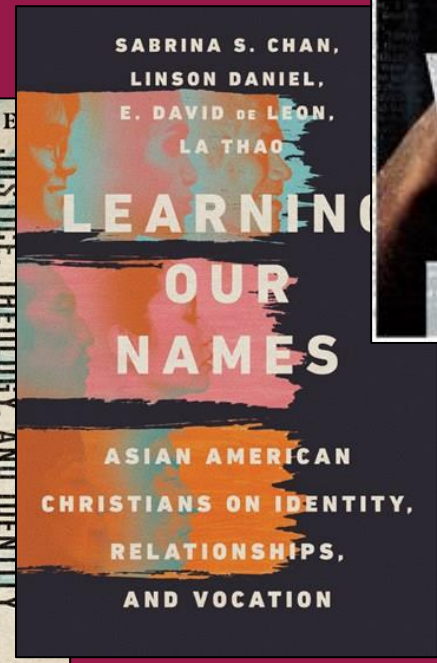
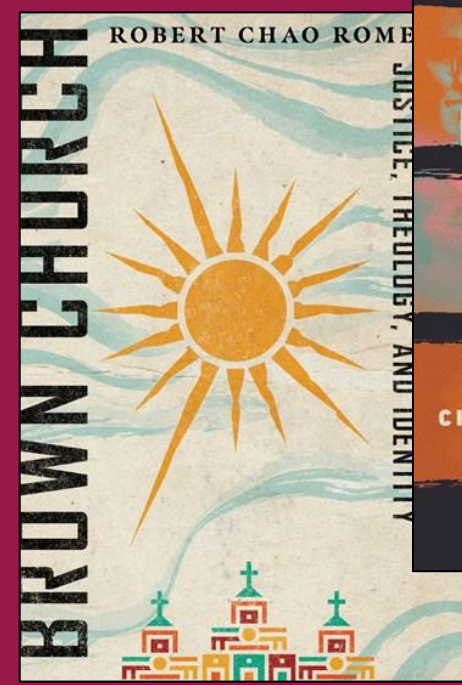
What if ...

- We embraced humility?



Instead, what if ...

- We embraced humility?
- We took the posture of learners?



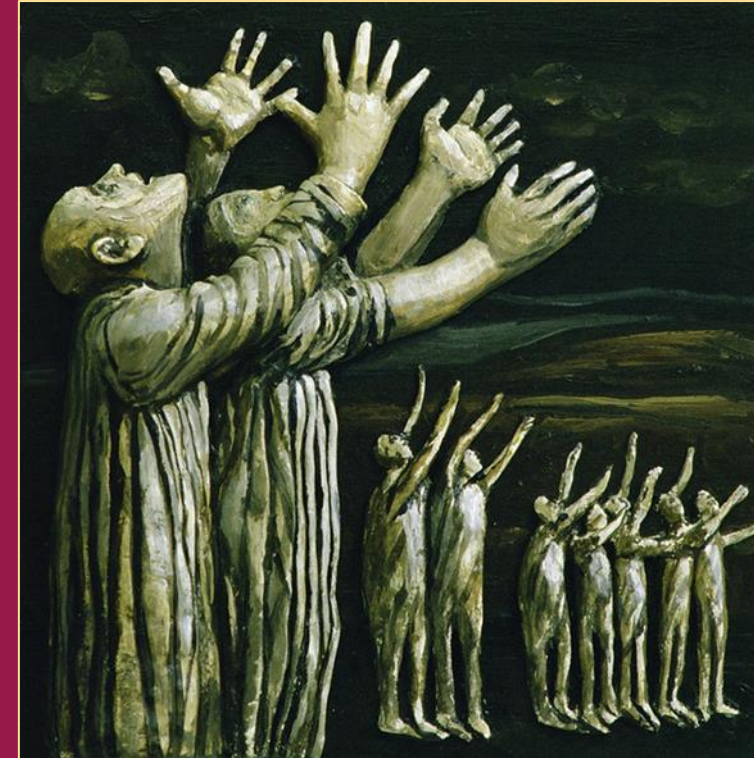
Instead, what if...

- We embraced humility?
- We took the posture of learners?
- We took the initiative to displace ourselves?



Instead, what if...

- We embraced humility?
- We took the posture of learners?
- We took the initiative to displace ourselves?
- We learned to lament?



Instead, what if...

- We embraced humility?
- We took the posture of learners?
- We took the initiative to displace ourselves?
- We learned to lament?
- We practiced honest confession (telling ourselves and others the whole truth)?



Instead, what if...

- We embraced humility?
- We took the posture of learners?
- We displaced ourselves?
- We practiced lament?
- We told the whole truth?
- We pursued justice before diversity?



Instead, what if...

- We embraced humility?
- We took the posture of learners?
- We displaced ourselves?
- We practiced lament?
- We told the whole truth?
- We pursued justice before diversity?
- We embraced repentance
(including identificational repentance*)?





- He will judge the nations. (Ps 110:6)
- “this evil generation” (Luke 11:29)
- judgment against churches (Rev. 2 & 3)



Identificational Repentance

Nehemiah 1: 5-7

“LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.

I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you.

We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.”

Identificational Repentance

- **Nehemiah's** identificational repentance (Neh. 1:6-9) also paved the way for corporate repentance (8:9-11; 9:1-2)
- In Nehemiah 9:2, we're told that **the people of God** confessed their sins -- *and the sins of their ancestors*.
- **Isaiah** repented on behalf of all the Israelites (Isaiah 6:5)
- **Jeremiah** confessed the sins of his generation *and his forefathers* (Jer. 3:25; 14:7, 20)
- **Daniel's** identificational repentance delivered God's people from the demonic principalities of Persia and Greece (Dan. 9:8, 20-22; 10:2ff.)

Example prayers of identificational repentance

*As white American Christians,
too often we have not listened to
or believed
the cries of Your children,
our brothers and sisters.*

Lord, have mercy.

Example prayers of identificational repentance

*As white American Christians,
too often we have focused
on a narrow range of injustices
while actively ignoring others.*

Lord, have mercy.

Example prayers of identificational repentance

*As white American Christians,
too often we have chosen to listen
only to those who reinforce our opinions
and have dismissed our own brothers and sisters
who have different perspectives.*

*We have sacrificed truth
for the sake of reassuring ourselves that we are right.*

Lord, have mercy.

Example prayers of identificational repentance

*As “woke” white American Christians,
too often we have treated our white brothers and sisters in Christ –
people who sincerely love Jesus – with arrogance
because they are not as “far along” as we perceive ourselves to be.*

*We have othered them and have spoken of them with disdain.
We have essentially said to them, “I have no need of you.”*

Lord, have mercy.

- Gather your thoughts
- Write your own prayer(s)
You may want to use this format.

*As white American Christians,
too often we have ...*

Lord, have mercy.

- Share with 1 or 2 others

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Multiethnic Resource Specialist

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intervarsity.org](mailto:connie.jg.anderson@intervarsity.org)

