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“I’m Tired of Being Tolerated”  
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Degrees of Cultural Awareness (<http://www.culturocity.com/articles/whatisculturalawareness.htm>)

1. My Way Is the Only Way (Parochial Stage)
  - a. Aware of how they are doing things and that is it
  - b. Ignore the impact of cultural differences
2. I Know Their Way, but My Way Is Better (Ethnocentric Stage)
  - a. Aware of how others do things but consider their way the best
  - b. Cultural differences are the source of problems
  - c. Tend to ignore differences or reduce their significance
3. My Way and Their Way (Synergistic Stage)
  - a. Aware of multiple ways of doing things and choose the best way depending on the situation.
  - b. Realize cultural differences can lead both to problems and benefits and use cultural diversity to create new solutions and alternatives
4. Our Way (Participatory Third Culture Stage)
  - a. Brings people from different cultural backgrounds together to create a culture of shared meaning
  - b. Constant conversation, create new meanings and new rules to meet the needs of a situation.

Tolerance, Acceptance, and Understanding:

(<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/looking-in-the-cultural-mirror/201402/tolerance-acceptance-understanding>)

- Tolerance
  - Fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose opinions or practices differ from their own; freedom from bigotry.
  - “Treat others how you want to be treated” or “I can live with this”
- Acceptance
  - Human Psychology- person’s agreement to the reality of a situation; recognizing a process or condition without attempting to change it, protest, or leave.
  - “It is ok.”
- Understanding
  - People can think about abstract or physical things (a person, situation, or message) and use concepts to appropriately deal with it.
- The flaw with this theory is that you can tolerate or accept someone or something without understanding them or understand them without accepting or tolerating them.

Definition

Tolerate- Allow the existence, occurrence, or practice of (something that one does not necessarily like or agree with) without interference:

## Reminders (How I Keep Myself Honest):

### 1. All Types of Worship Are Valid if They Line Up with Scripture

Romans 12:3-6 (NKJV): For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- a. Different churches and groups provide the sound for different demographics or parts of the “Body of Christ”
- b. Just because it may not fit your part of the body, denomination, or mission does not mean it is wrong.

1 John 4:1-3 (NKJV): Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

- c. Ultimately, you must discern if there is clear spiritual and scriptural backing to what these songs mean ignoring the style.
- d. This will take prayer and research.
- e. Don’t take everything at face value.

### 2. We Are Called to Reach Everyone

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NKJV): For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

- a. Music is the great equalizer.
- b. We are called to be chameleons (Chameleons change their colors because they can instead of out of fear.)
- c. Unity of Assimilation vs. Unity of Diversity
  - i. Unity of Assimilation- We are one because we fit a demographic and blend in (one flavor)
  - ii. Unity of Diversity- We are one because we honor each other’s differences and use them to become better. (Discernable flavors create a whole)

### 3. Arrest Your Preconceived Notions

2 Corinthians 10:4-7 (NKJV): For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.

- a. What are your strongholds, arguments (imagination), and high things that exalt themselves above God?
- b. The key of beginning to think multicultural: your opinion doesn't matter; God's desire does.
- c. What is God's Desire?
  - i. Philippians 2:1-4 (NKJV): 1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- d. God desires unity from us.
- e. What are you willing to sacrifice or be open to so unity can happen?

### 4. Challenge Yourself

1 Chronicles 25:6-7 (NKJV): All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king. So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the Lord, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV): Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- a. A skilled musician is not a "one trick pony"
- b. We should be versed in different styles of music to be relevant and usable in all settings.
- c. A skilled musician strives to become better not for selfish gain but to further the kingdom of God.

5. Build the Bridge

- i. Isaiah 58:12 (NKJV): Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.
- b. Part of our job as worship leaders and leaders in general is to build bridges between cultures and generations.
- c. If we only work in one style or focus on one demographic, there are fringes that are ignored.
- d. We must work to address all the voices in the room so that all people are prepared for the word.
- e. Equity vs Fairness/Equality
  - i. Equity is treatment based on needs
  - ii. Fairness/Equality focuses on treatment to make similar
- f. We must begin to minister equitably to serve the needs of the church.
  - i. Takes a deep sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and “practicing the presence.”
  - ii. The plan may, and probably, will change because it is not about a plan but about promoting an atmosphere of change.