<div align="center">
"I Am Not My Ethnicity"
Jenn Chen, MABC, Psy.D, MA in MFT
IBCD 2019 Training Institute - Identity Crisis
</div>

Introduction

Ethnicity: "A named human population with myths of common ancestry, shared historical memories, one or more elements of common culture, a link with a homeland and a sense of solidarity among at least some of its members."[1]

Culture: patterns of ideas, attitudes, values, lifestyle habits, and traditions shared by a group of people and transmitted from one generation to the next

At the heart of culture is: **WORLDVIEW**
- **Information/Description**: Data, sometimes in the form of a problem
- **Interpretation/Theory**: Narrative for explaining the data/problem
- **Intervention/Prescription**: Attempts to solve the problem
- **Worship:** Worldview affects our worship, or "Worth-ship"; what we treasure, value, and place our hope; what we inordinately desire or fear

Personal Experience with Ethnicity

Shame and Alienation

Anger and Pride

Professional Experience with Ethnicity

Doctoral Dissertation

Teaching/Lecturing/Supervising

- 4th Force in Psychology (Multicultural Psychology) after Psychoanalytic, Behaviorism, and Existential/Humanistic
  - **Information**: There are systematic abuses of power against cultural groups (minorities)
  - **Interpretation**: Some cultural groups have too much societal power, which they use to define reality and keep resources for their own cultural group
  - **Intervention**: Postmodernism and Social Equality
  - **Worship**: Reliance on man to fix societal problems

---

[1] J. Hutchinson and A. D. Smith, eds., Ethnicity (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), 6. In Keith Ferdinando, "The Ethnic Enemy—No Greek or Jew … Barbarian, Scythian: The Gospel and Ethnic Difference," *Themelios* 33, no. 2 (2008): 48.

- Research Participants
  - Behavioral scientists routinely publish broad claims about human psychology and behavior in the world's top journals based on samples drawn entirely from **W**estern, **E**ducated, **I**ndustrialized, **R**ich, and **D**emocratic (WEIRD) societies.[2]
  - Grohol, John M. (2018) "Psychology Secrets: Most Psychology Studies Are College Student Biased."[3]

- Individualistic vs. Collectivistic/West vs. East

Working in the Inner City

A Biblical Perspective on Ethnicity

Creation
- Genesis 1:26-28 – Man created in God's image and mandated to multiply (c.f., Gen. 9:1-17)

Fall
- Genesis 10 – Nations Descended from Noah (essential unity of human beings)
- Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel (disunity and dispersion)

"Nations" – Old Testament[4]
- The Nations: Groups of people linked by kinship, land, culture, or government; in the Bible, "the nations" especially refers to those who are not Israelite.
  - גּוֹיִם, *goyim*/non-Israelites
  - עַמִּים, *ammim*/ "the people of Israel"
- All nations rebel against God, as does Israel
- Antithetical relationship with Israel
- Warnings to be separate from the gods of other nations (Deut. 7:1-26), which are mere idols (Psa. 96:5), not true gods (Isa. 44:12-20, 45:14).

"Nations" – New Testament[5]
- Most of the time, the New Testament authors use ἔθνη (*ethnē*) in a <u>neutral</u> way to refer to those who are not Jews, that is, *Gentiles*.
- However, *ethnē* is sometimes used to call attention to sinful or deceived practices
  - Jesus criticized Gentiles for their manner of praying (Matt 6:7) and their authoritarian style of leadership (Matt 20:25).
  - Paul faulted their sexual immorality (1 Cor 5:1; 1 Thess 4:5) and their demonic worship practices (1 Cor 10:20).
  - Paul regarded their sinfulness as a sign of spiritual ignorance (Eph 4:17).

---

[2] Henrich, J. Heine, S.J., & Norenzayan, A. (2010). The weirdest people in the world? *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33(2-3), 61-83.

[3] https://psychcentral.com/blog/psychology-secrets-most-psychology-studies-are-college-student-biased/

[4], [5] Dennis L. Durst, <u>"Nations, the,"</u> ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

- Peter listed as typical Gentile behavior: "licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry" (1 Pet 4:3).

Redemption
- Pentecost: transcending nationality/ethnicity in unity of God's people
- Acts 10:28
- Colossians 3:11

Consummation
- Revelation 7:9–10 (ESV)
  9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
- Revelation 21:24, 26

Biblical Counseling, Ethnicity, and Worldview

The Counselor
- Be aware of your own worldview and communication style
  - Do they come from Scripture, or from another cultural influence? This is part of why it is so crucial to know and counsel the Word!
- Incarnation Principle/Indigenous Principle - 1 Corinthians 9:22b–23 (ESV)

Biblical Worldview
- **Information**: the counselee is dealing with problems associated with ethnicity/culture
- **Interpretation**: the counselee is living in a fallen world as a sufferer, sinner, and saint in desperate need of Christ
- **Intervention**: the Gospel
- **Worship**: the only true and living God - the Triune Redeemer!

The Counselee

Sufferer
- Lamenting leading to worship
  - Weeping with those who weep (Rom. 12:15)
  - Acknowledging there can be suffering from prejudice and oppression due to ethnicity
    - Psalms on oppression (e.g. , 10, 73, 102)
  - Crying out to God as an act of worship and trust (Psalms, Lamentations, Habakkuk, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane)

- Meeting their suffering with Biblical hope
  - God cares about our suffering (e.g., Psa. 56:8), is present (e.g., Psa. 23:4; Isa. 43:1-7), and is our comfort (2 Cor. 1:4; Isa. 51:12; 66:13).
  - Suffering is necessary for spiritual growth (e.g., Rom. 5:3-5; 2 Cor. 1:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; Jas. 2:4; Heb. 12:5-11).
  - Suffering is going somewhere good! (e.g., Rom. 8:28-30; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Phil. 3:8-11; Rev. 21:4-5)

Sinner
- Differentiating between their cultural values and biblical values
- Identifying their idolatries - what they worship and where they seek their "salvation" from other than God – and how their culture(s) may influence this
  - …in a fallen world human beings, in their search for lost identity and security, have a constant tendency to accord to their autonomous governmental/ national/communal collectivity an idolatrous commitment, and human governors/leaders have a constant tendency to demand it (*cf. the different portraits of government, people and power in the book of Daniel*). [6]
  - "ethnicity answers to the profound human need for identity, belonging and security."[7] (Keith Ferdinando, *The Ethnic Enemy*, p. 58)
- Conviction (Psa. 51:3, Luke 18:13), Confession (Psa. 51, I John 1:7-9; Prov. 28:13), Repentance (2 Cor. 7:8-10)

Saint
- Having Biblical Discernment
  - Kevin DeYoung & Greg Gilbert, *What is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission.*
  - John MacArthur, *The Injustice of Social Justice,* https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B180813
- Responding in faith through love
- Not being overcome by evil, but overcoming evil with good (Rom. 12:9-21)
- Responding with the constructive displeasure of mercy
  - *Good and Angry: Redeeming Anger, Irritation, Complaining, and Bitterness* by David Powlison
- Growing in Knowing God and His Perfect Character
  - *Trusting God* by Jerry Bridges
  - Attributes: Just, Wise, Sovereign
- Stewarding Ethnicity

Finding one's ultimate identity in Christ
- Ephesians 2:11–22 - One in Christ
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-21 – One Body with Many Members

---

[6] Neil Summerton, "Identity Crisis?: The Nation-State, Nationality, Regionalism, Language and Religion," *Themelios* 21, no. 3 (1996): 18.

[7] Keith Ferdinando, "The Ethnic Enemy—No Greek or Jew … Barbarian, Scythian: The Gospel and Ethnic Difference," *Themelios* 33, no. 2 (2008): 48.