

## ***Keys to a Successful Multi-Cultural Approach***

Here is a practical guide for you as you think about your approach and your Personal Entry Posture to any cross-cultural experiences that you may encounter in your ministry or your personal life.

### **Do Show This:**

- **Openness** - Approach each opportunity for cross cultural experiences with a open heart and an open mind, engaged and eager to see their perspective
- **Acceptance** - Accept that cultural differences exist and that each person's culture WILL BE different. Embrace it!
- **Trust** - 'Benefit of the doubt' is true trust; many cross cultural experiences will require a level of a trusted, loving understanding and empathy
- **Adaptability** - Adjust your views, adjust your mindset, and seek opportunities to be flexible - never tried authentic, homemade Indian food, give it a try! Never been to a Spanish speaking congregation, give it a try!

### **Don't Show This:**

- **Suspicion** - A cautious distrust of others from differing cultures is never healthy in building cross cultural relationships, whether it is due to a culture's norms, practices, and reputations; different doesn't mean that their culture should come under any scrutiny.
- **Fear** - Do we intentionally avoid a certain part of town? Do we cross the street when we see a group of young people? Do we get scared when we see someone with a turban on a plane? Our fear is a large barrier to positive cross-cultural experiences.
- **Superiority** - My culture is better, because we value timeliness, we dress 'professional,' or we are true patriots. This common way of think can lead to feelings of superiority.
- **Prejudice** - Many cross-cultural experiences are severely impacted due to someone bringing pre-conceptive attitudes about a culture into the relationship. This will ultimately lead to negative assumptions and potential harmful discord.