
Intergenerational

harmony | flourishing | dialogue

Justin Thang + Michele Turek • 08.08.26



Who Are We?

Reminder

We'll end with 10-15 minutes of Q&A, so if you have any questions, please be sure to write them down for later.

Justin

FAITH BETWEEN GENERATIONS

Carrying Hope Through
Uncertain Times

*“I didn’t choose the story I was
born into.”*

Stories • Faith • Sacrifice • Resilience

WHAT DO WE INHERIT?

Every generation inherits something.

STORIES

Where we come from

FAITH

What gives us hope

WISDOM

What experience teaches

WOUNDS

What needs healing

DREAMS

What we hope to build

RESILIENCE

What helps us keep going

"The stranger may have something to teach us, too."

Matthew 25:35

"I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

DIFFERENT WORLDS. SHARED QUESTIONS.

The circumstances change. The human questions remain.

OLDER GENERATION

War & displacement
Poverty & rebuilding
Sacrifice & survival

YOUNGER GENERATION

Technology & social media
Identity & belonging
Pressure & uncertainty

WHERE DO I BELONG?

WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

HOW DO I FIND HOPE?

“The younger generation may not inherit the same circumstances, but we can inherit the wisdom that helped our parents and grandparents survive theirs.”

LOOK BACK. LISTEN. LOOK FORWARD.

LOOK BACK

with gratitude

What have we received?

LISTEN

with curiosity

What can we learn from each other?

LOOK FORWARD

with hope

What can we give the next generation?

*“Harmony doesn't always begin with agreement.
Sometimes it begins with curiosity.”*

Tell me your story. Help me understand your world. What can I learn from you?



History

Chinese American Church

- Historic populations
 - Migration reasons
 - Expectations on the next generation → fueled the natural generation gap (i.e., world view, language)
 - Typical life cycle of the historic Chinese American church
 - Similar dynamics in other Asian communities
-

Ephesians 2:14-22 (NRSVUE)

⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, ¹⁵ abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God...

... ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; ²¹ in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.





Right

Difference

Wrong

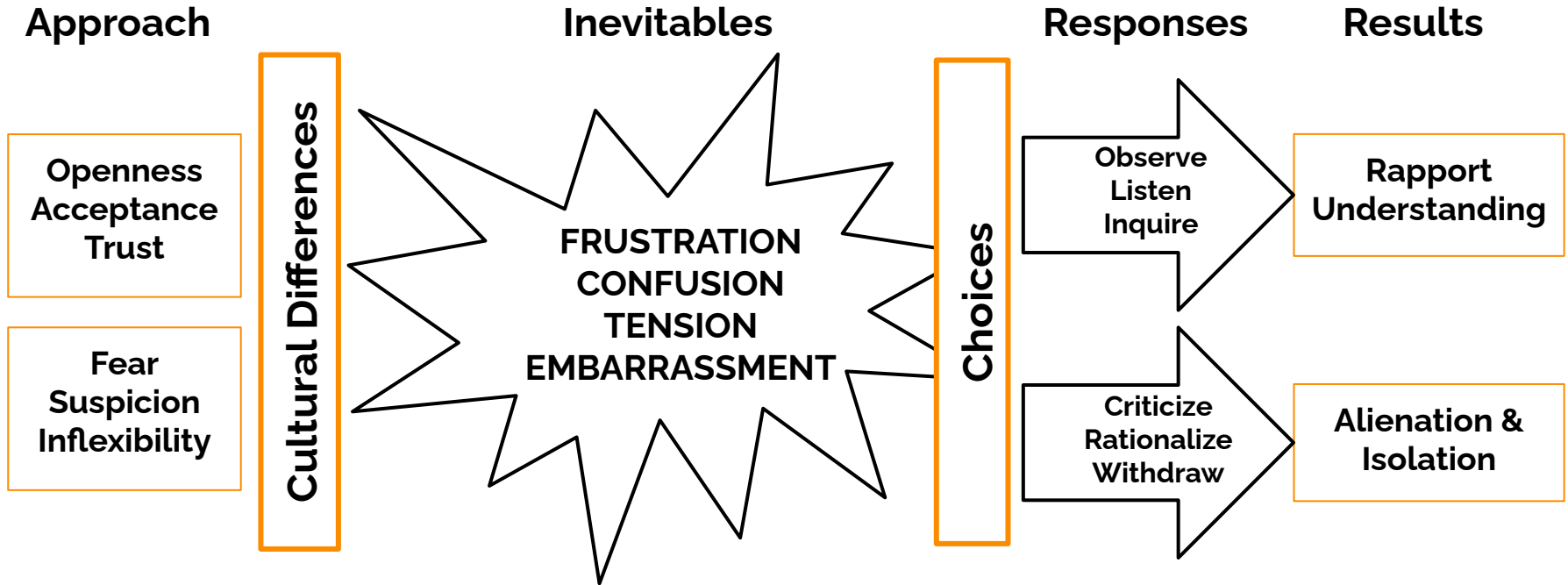


Right

Difference

Wrong

Cultural Adjustment Map



DIALOGUE

Key Principles

Curiosity

Instead of reacting, ask 'why.' Strive for understanding before making judgement.

Intentionality

Building bridges takes purpose-driven planning.

Proactivity

Don't wait for someone else to take the first step. Take the initiative because the conversation has to start with someone.

Let's Practice

Older to Younger Generation

Examples:

- What do you do in our church community that brings you joy? How can we cultivate that?
- What is one experience from your life that you hope the younger generation never forgets?

Younger to Older Generation

Examples:

- I notice you care a lot about _____. Can you tell me more about why that's important to you?
 - What is one challenge you are facing that you wish the older generation understood better?
-

Q&A
