

# Cultural Competence

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by: Pastor Kevin Mogor 

Cultural Competence is a term that is often encouraged yet rarely demonstrated. Growing up in an Assemblies of God church, working at an Assemblies of God church, and doing my undergrad and graduate studies at Assemblies of God schools, it is fair to say that I have experienced my fair share of ‘good’ cultural competence and ‘bad’ cultural competence.

Being an African American male serving on staff with predominately white co-workers oftentimes left me feeling like a scapegoat when certain topics about race or injustice came up rather than a point of reference that could breed insight and perspective to the topic at hand. I would hear comments like “I get what you’re trying to say but the law is the law” or statements like “it’s not an issue of race is a matter of the heart.” Both statements are true but both statements take away from the experience of the people who have to live out that truth in a way that many others with a different skin color do not. The lack of understanding when it came to hairstyles or attire would be met with comments like “that doesn’t look very professional” or “I liked you better when you looked like that,” and though the innocence may be there, the ignorance of those comments failed to be fully comprehended.

To be culturally competent is not a matter of living what other people have lived through but instead taking the time to listen, understand, and educate oneself on the life and experience of those around them. It isn’t to prove a point or to diminish the viewpoints of another individual

but to take the time to understand that your experience may be skewed or filtered through a lens that is more favored towards society rather than one that is pitted against society.

With this being said, cultural competence is something that the church needs to be leading the charge in and not sitting back and allowing the world to. Too many churches are trying to stay neutral and in turn allowing pain, suffering, and injustice to carry on instead of taking a stand and allowing healing, progress, and growth to happen.

### *About the Author:*



*Pastor Kevin Mogor is a 2016 Graduate of Northpoint Bible College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies and Children Ministries. He has worked in various ministry areas like Children's and Young Adults after his time at Northpoint. In December 2020, Kevin achieved his Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership from Southeastern University. He now serves as the Director of Student Ministries at Crossroads Community Cathedral in East Hartford, CT.*