

CHARACTERISTICS OF WHITE SUPREMACY CULTURE



One Right Way

Symptoms:

- The belief there is one right way to do things and once people are introduced to the right way, they will see the light and adopt it.
- When a person or group does not adapt or change to "fit" the one right way, then those defining or upholding the one right way assume something is wrong with them (the other, those not changing), not with us (those who 'know' the right way).
- Similar to a missionary who sees only value in their beliefs about what is good rather than acknowledging value in the culture of the communities they are determined to "convert" to the right way of thinking and/or the right way of living.

Antidotes:

- Accept there are many ways to get to the same goal. Once a group has made a decision about what to do, honor that decision and see what you and the community or organization learn from making that decision, even and especially if it is not the way you would have chosen.
- Work on developing the ability to notice when you become defensive and/or insistent about doing something your way and do everything you can to take a breath. Allow yourself room to consider how a different path or paths might improve your approach and/or offer you something you really need.
- Look for the tendency for a group or a person to keep pushing the same point over and over out of a belief that there is only one right way, and then name it.
- When working with a community from a different culture than yours, be clear that you have some learning to do about that community's way of doing things. Assume that you and your organization can't possibly know what's best for a community without first forming meaningful relationships with that community.