

Learning a Whole World Culture – Part Two

E-mail is “paperless communication at the speed of light.” Remember the good ole days when you sent a letter to Foreign Missions? Sometimes it took a month to get there and another month to receive a response. Today, we can fire off a letter through cyberspace (and expect a response almost as quickly). And this has brought on a new paradigm of cross-cultural communications.

Netizens, here are some more “nethics” and netiquette for a whole world culture. These go along with the six other tips I gave previously.

1. **Never send e-mails when angry.** Ask, “How would I feel receiving this message?” Let a neutral person read your “hot topic” e-mails. Hitting the speedy “Send” key may cause irretrievable and irreversible regrets. Set your response aside and reread it later.
2. **Be careful with the contents of your e-mails.** Avoid saying things you would not be happy for others to read. Realize that it is possible for e-mails to be intercepted. Remember the Internet never forgets and the “Forward” button is just longing to be pushed.
3. **Place your web address at the bottom.** This can be done by using the signature function of an e-mail program, and can be set on default. It is automatically added to all e-mails.
4. **Add a revival one-liner.** There’s nothing like good news from a far country (Proverbs 25:25). A sentence about what God is doing on your field is refreshing in any business correspondence.
5. **Do not take others for granted.** Everyone enjoys being appreciated and recognized. Notice when someone goes the extra mile. Instead of, “We appreciate ya” be specific with your accolades and affirmation.
6. **Avoid being forward with forwards.** Make your e-mails count. Forwards, jokes, and poems are often deleted. And downsize file sizes of pictures and attachments when possible.