

# Cultural differences

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We studied the cultural differences between Americans and Asians—some of which I found quite amusing. For instance, Americans are viewed as boisterous and loud. It made me wonder, why are we loud? Is it because we try to grab attention? Is it because we have an outgoing personality? Or is it because we're obnoxious humans who only think about ourselves, and don't really think about who we affect around us?

We studied the different layers that Americans and Asians have. Americans have a thick outer layer and thin inner layer. Asians have a thin outer layer and thick inner layer. That means Americans are harder to become friends with, but once a relationship is established, deeper connection and trust is established. Asians, on the other hand, make casual friendships quite easily, but it's harder for them to open up and let others know the what's really in their hearts.

I thought about how difficult it would be for me to try to build a relationship with an Asian. I knew that I would be able to make them laugh and like my personality, but it would take some rough work to break the inner wall. I had my work cut out. I want to form the kind of relationship where they can trust me and open up to share their deepest thoughts with me. The only way to do that is to pray and to allow my heart to be open. I have to open up some of my emotional wounds, but that's a sacrifice I have to make. I want them to hit a vulnerable stage and lay their burdens on my shoulders. I want to help them carry any burdens holding them back from the freedom they can find in Christ.

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