

Discipleship: Deep Diving for Treasure

Community Cultural Wealth

In 2005 Professor Tara J. Yosso introduced the Community Cultural Wealth model, as a framework to identify overlooked forms of cultural knowledge that exist in communities of color. The six forms of capital she identified were; *aspirational, navigational, social, linguistic, familial, and resistant*.

- ***Aspirational Capital*** highlights the dreams and hopes a person has for their future.
- ***Navigational Capital*** refers to the skills needed to move through spaces that were created without them in mind.
- ***Social Capital*** identifies people and networks that are accessed for support in pursuing human flourishing.
- ***Linguistic Capital*** includes intellectual and social skills received through concepts and words the person grasps through non-verbal and verbal communication.
- ***Familial Capital*** focuses on the cultural knowledge nurtured from familial, close-knit meaningful relationships, that may or may not be blood related.
- ***Resistant Capital*** are the skills cultivated through oppositional behavior that challenges inequality.

In 2010 Professor Lindsey Pérez-Huber noted in her research a seventh form of capital surfaced, one she called ***spiritual capital***. She defines spiritual capital as a set of resources and skills that are rooted in a spiritual connection to a reality greater than oneself. Both Yosso and Pérez-Huber contextualize their findings towards their given field of Latinas/os in education. The idea behind the Community Cultural Wealth model is people have inherent wealth, that through the sharing of life experiences the value of their story can be excavated and added to the wealth they gain through their pursuit of education. They then will be able to share their wealth with others, who in turn will share their wealth. In a way, this is a discipleship process that leads to great potential for human flourishing!

The Church and Community Cultural Wealth

Scholars have admitted that spiritual capital is an under-researched field. As a missiologist, I see the Community Cultural Wealth model as something to be leveraged as a framework for evangelism and discipleship in the local church. Think of a wheel, in the middle is a hub, and from the hub flow spokes. I think, if spiritual capital is the hub, and the other six forms of capital are the spokes, Christians who life interdependently together in discipleship rhythms can mobilize together to make amazing gains for the Great Commission.



When reading **Ephesians 1:3-6**, Paul tells Christians they have been blessed with “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” which identifies a spiritual treasury of benefits given by God the Father. These blessings are not found in Christians of color alone rather, the entire *multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-generational, and multi-linguistic* Body of Christ (**Revelation 7:9**)! Every Jesus follower has a never-ending supply of spiritual capital, so when we choose to distribute it through the other six forms of capital, we can naturally engage evangelistic and discipleship activities!

- ***Aspirational Capital*** reminds us our life is a vapor and in humility we should submit our dreams, hopes, and plans to the Lord (**James 4:13-16**).
- ***Navigational Capital*** can intersect the unbeliever with the fact God is the one who determines our steps (**Proverbs 16:9**) so we should seek Him holistically (**Matthew 6:33**).
- ***Social Capital*** reminds us of the social and spiritual ethics of God’s Kingdom Jesus both preached and modeled and called us to imitate (**Matthew 5-7; 28:20**).
- ***Linguistic Capital*** calls us to pursue purity in our hearts, which is the well of words we draw from to speak (**Matthew 12:34**) and if we want to practice religion that honors God, we should meet the felt needs other others, while guarding our speech (**James 1:27; 3:1-12**).
- ***Familial Capital*** points us to the fact the Christian faith is a family, and there are over 50 “one another’s” in the New Testament alone that calls us to live like we’re family!
- ***Resistant Capital*** is our clarion call to resist the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (**1 John 2:15-17**) and seek to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so we do not live like those who do not know Christ (**Romans 12**).

When believers leverage the God-given spiritual capital in ways that discover and develop all other forms of capital, filter them through the lens of Scripture, holistic discipleship can result. Meaningful relationships of saints who are mobilized will reduce lostness while disciples are being produced. All of this forms a preview of what **Revelation 21-22** projects Kingdom life will be like when we're dwelling in the glory of our God.