

# An Assault on Your Assumptions

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An assault on your assumptions

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.”  
Matthew 5.9

Christianity is a missionary religion. We believe people are separated from God but are reconciled through the Gospel. We are commanded by Jesus (Matt. 28.18-20) to make disciples and equip people to live out his teaching. Are we successful at it? Why are we failing at the Great Commission?

The heart of the message today is this: God calls the church to live with Him in such a way that people recognize Him in their midst. He calls us to be peacemakers – those who bring shalom – and as we do people turn to Him.

So, we have to change our way of thinking and our way of acting.

We’ve made the Gospel the way to Christ

when it’s really about Christ.

1. It’s not easy to follow Jesus.
2. We do not decide to follow Jesus in one moment. We continue to decide over our lifetime.
3. Calling people to Christ means calling them to a community which embodies the Gospel.

About changing our way of behaving...

(For a great explanation of the Biblical concept of shalom see the Ventura Vineyard podcast of “Shalom” by Wayne Randolph given on March 7,2015)

1. Peacemaking is not about power

it's about strategy .

(Matt. 12.9-14)

Peacemaking is actually very powerful because it does not seek power. Peacemaking embraces the way of weakness. It exposes its vulnerability, parades it even and this is its source of power.

The strategic use of weakness is peacemaking.

1. The way of weakness is not about judgment

it's about mercy .

(Matt. 9.1-8)

Peacemaking is merciful.