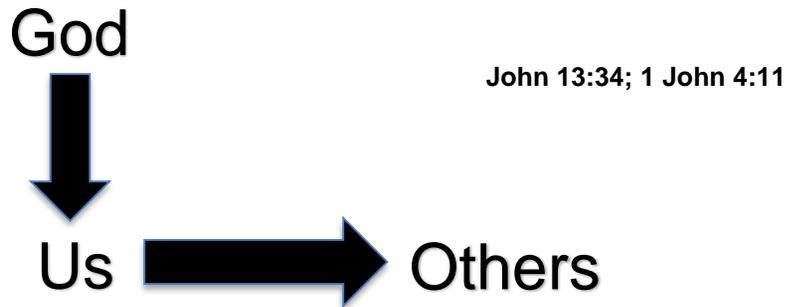


# PEACEMAKERS

## Week 2: *OUR MOTIVE & METHOD*

### APPETIZER: How Christian Ethics Work



TODAY WE LAUNCH OUR NEW PEACEMAKING CAMPAIGN:

*Our support will be going to three areas of peacebuilding...*

1. *PEACE CARDS (FOR AFRICA): supporting 16 peacebuilding initiatives in 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that work to reduce violence in areas facing interreligious and interethnic conflict, police brutality, corporal punishment, gender-based violence, etc.*
2. *PEACE CARDS (FOR CANADA): supporting 5 peacebuilding initiatives in Ontario in the areas of restorative justice and reconciliation with our indigenous neighbours.*
3. *RELIEF KITS: Practical help in hurting places. This year the kits will be going to persons affected by the conflict in Syria.*

GOAL: 2,550 Peace Cards & 1,000 Relief Kits

Visit [themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers](http://themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers) for more info.

### DINE IN: A Better Motivation Than Anger

Ephesians 4:26-32

James 1:19-20; Colossians 3:8

PROBLEM: Western “call-out” culture buys into and keeps selling us the myth of redemptive anger. Every single day, online and on TV, we see anger as the attitude of righteousness.

BIGGER PROBLEM: Christian culture has linked anger with righteousness. But “righteous anger” is a myth.

SKANDALIZO = To be offended, scandalized, made to stumble. Happens to Pharisees, to non-believers, and to the disciples when they desert Jesus. It is always bad. It is never good. Being “offended” is not a badge of holiness, but hypocrisy.

LOVE (*Agape*) = Love is the choice to relate to someone as valuable. Agape is always unconditional, honouring, active, and energizing. Love always blesses both the lover and the beloved. Love always asks, “What is best for the person I hold as precious?”

### TAKE OUT: How To Get Rid of Anger

1. SUPPRESSION? Makes it worse. For you and for others.
2. VENTING? Makes it worse. For you and for others.
3. REAPPRAISAL... The way of Jesus (and science).

“You don’t get frustrated because of events, but about what you believe about those events.” (Albert Ellis)

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- Read Brant Hansen’s *Unoffendable*.

### NEXT WEEK: Peacemakers Part 3

Bruxy continues our Peacemakers series, including an interview with Joseph Medina, former US Military.

---

## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message talk about what stood out to you.
2. Christian ethics focus on what God has given us, and that becomes the paradigm for what we should offer others. Brainstorm – what has God done for you? For each thing you list, discuss how that should effect how we treat others. Be specific!
3. How are you feeling about our new Peacemaker Campaign?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

4. Read **Ephesians 4:26-32**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
  - b. This idea of avoiding the sin of anger by getting rid of it right away is the most (and only) positive statement about anger in the New Testament. Otherwise anger is always seen as sin for humans because anger is the emotion associated with judgement, which is God's role, not ours. How different is this from what you have been taught before (in society and in the church) about anger?
  - c. In what ways might the devil exploit our anger?
  - d. The picture of proper repentance described in verse 28 is not just stopping doing bad things, but starting doing loving things. How might God rewrite this verse if it was directed individually to you? (e.g., Bruxy, STOP eating seven meals a day, and START giving the money you save to the church. STOP spending so much time watching TV, and START spending more time with your kids. STOP cutting people up behind their backs, and START serving them, even if they hate you. Etc.)
  - e. Our words are supposed to be conduits for grace. In what area of communication are you most tempted to be least gracious (e.g., social media, talking about others with friends, with family, when drinking, when someone is rude to you, when making a quick interaction during the course of your day, other)?
  - f. Take a few minutes to meditate on verse 32. Think about your interactions with people this past week. Ask God to bring to mind those encounters he wants you to learn from. How gracious have you been? Think about all that God has given you, and about what it would look like for you to offer the same to others. Imagine the week ahead like this.

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

5. Use your regular huddle questions to talk about your lives and to prepare you to pray for each other.

---

## Quotes

Today's Message –  
Part 2: OUR MOTIVE & METHOD

Today we want to examine our internal motivations so we can work for peace, reconciliation, and justice for the right reason: love, and not anger.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me sow love;  
and where there is injury, pardon.  
~ Francis of Assisi

The end never justifies the means.  
The means are simply the end in the process of becoming.  
~ Brian Zahnd

Anger is the most fundamental problem in human life.  
~ Dallas Willard

The disciple of Jesus must be entirely innocent of anger, because anger is an offence against both God and our neighbour.  
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Anger is extraordinarily easy. It's our default setting.  
Love is very difficult. Love is a miracle.  
~ Brant Hansen

The world moves for love. It kneels before it in awe.  
~ William Hurt in *The Village*

"You must not harbour anger," I admonished myself. "You must be willing to suffer the anger of the opponent, and yet not return anger." ... We want to love our enemies.  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Love your enemies.  
~ Jesus