

Mistaken Identity | Week 03

A Tale of Two Paintings | April 15th and 18th

Anchor Verse: He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” -Matthew 16:15

What’s the Issue Anyway?

Many of us have experienced the trauma of _____.

The _____ of the _____ of FBI God are fear, anxiety, exclusion, hatred, harshness and pride.

A violent vision of God leads to a violent _____ of God.

What wisdom does scripture offer us?

Plenty of Bible verses paint God as _____, a violent, moral monster filled with wrath.
(1 Samuel 15:3; Numbers 31; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:5-6)

Plenty of Bible verses Paint God as _____, non-violent, merciful and pursuing with love.
(Psalm 86:15; Psalm 145:8-9; Luke 15)

Jesus reveals the eternal, _____ logos of God.

Don’t Miss This!

We have to _____ between the Bible’s radical, non-violent vision of God incarnate in Jesus or the Bible’s normal, violent vision of God incarnate in civilization.

What about my everyday, peacemaking life?

Read the Bible looking for the assertions and _____ of Jesus’ path to peace.

Interpret the wrath of God as Biblical _____ for natural consequences of going against the grain of love.

Don’t be afraid of _____ metaphors that become unhealthy.

The Age of Enlightenment has been replaced by the Age of _____.

Create two bins for inputs: Bin of _____ and the Bin of _____.

How can this bring us closer to God’s vision for us and our world?

We might not destroy _____ in the name of God and Armageddon.

We might save our _____ from love that keeps a record of wrong.

We might see religion _____ around something that actually matters: Peacemaking.

What is God inviting you into today?

1. Leave FBI God spirituality and find healing from the fear and anxiety it brings.
2. Read the Bible with eyes to see the two visions: Radicality of God and the Normalcy of Civilization
3. Send me a list of books/resources that might help me overcome my fear of FBI God and the Bible’s violent images.

Thought Provoking Questions for Groups or Personal Reflection

1. Have you had any experience with fear-based and violence-affirming religion? What impact does or did that have on your view of God and your neighbor?
2. Why do you think the Bible gives so many violent images of God? Why do so many of us just accept these as accurate?
3. Have you ever experienced a natural consequence for living against the grain of love?
4. How does a non-violent, non-record keeping God affect the way people parent or love their spouse, partner or friend?

HOSPITALITY
HERE