

*Jesus and the Art of Persuasive Infiltration*

**The Serpent Side of Jesus**

Matthew 10:16

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The Lord's Day Morning

March 18, 2018

“More Americans search for ‘church’ around Easter than at any other time...”

–Google Trends

“63% of Americans say a personal invitation from a friend or neighbor would be very or somewhat effective in getting them to visit a church.”

–Lifeway Research

**What is persuasive infiltration?**

Accommodation	Infiltration	Isolation
All serpent, no dove  The professing believer who successfully pursues friendships with unbelievers but is not living by Biblical ethics.  Won't invite unchurched friends to church because he/she fears rejection and revealing hypocrisy.	Serpent doves  The believer who lives by Biblical ethics <i>and</i> intentionally pursues friendships with unbelievers, earning their trust.  Strategically invite unchurched friends to church and guide them through the “strangeness” of church life.	All dove, no serpent  The professing believer who is living by Biblical ethics, but safely retreats from friendships with unbelievers.  Won't invite unchurched friends to church because he/she doesn't have any.

**Learning from the Serpent Side of Jesus**

1. S \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ to earn their trust. (Mt. 4:23–25; 5:14–16).
2. S \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy their trust (Mt. 9:9–13).
3. S \_\_\_\_\_ truth with \_\_\_\_\_ to expand their trust (Mt. 22).