

EXPECTATIONS
“How To Love When You Don’t Agree”
December 9, 2018

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (ESV)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27 (ESV)

Challenge: Your expectations of Christmas are anything but peaceful.

Fact: We live in a culture where we can't agree on anything.

Question 1: Do I want to make a point or a memory?
Question 2: Do I want to make a point or an impact?

Realization #1 - I need to develop a worldview shaped by the Gospel.

A worldview is a set of fundamental beliefs that inform the way we see and engage the world.

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Colossians 3:2 (NIV)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Step #1: Daily spending time in scripture

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

Step #2: Pray

Realization #2: I am a Kingdom Ambassador

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NIV)

- 1) We are sent with an allegiance to the King
- 2) We are sent with a message of reconciliation
- 3) We are sent to a foreign land with a mission to complete

Realization #3: Jesus had a strategy

- 1) What did He choose to say? What did He choose not to say?
- 2) How did He choose to say it?
- 3) When did He choose to say it?

"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:13-16

- 1) Prepare your minds
- 2) Exercise self-control
- 3) avoid slipping into self-satisfaction
- 4) be holy