

# On Being a Peace Church One Day Seminar Outline

## Session 1 “Peace I give to you, not as the world gives..”

- How the world makes peace through scapegoating (the mimetic theory)
- Violence as generator of culture and religion
- Two reconcilers = violence and love
- Contrast of negative and positive mimesis (imitation)

## Session 2 The Importance of Jesus’ Nonviolence

- for understanding his mission
  - o exposing our violent structures (his Life)
  - o undergoing our violent structures (his Passion)
  - o transforming our violent structures (his Resurrection)
- for understanding Biblical Doctrine
  - o sacrificial vs. non-sacrificial interpretation
  - o relation of Jesus and NT to OT and Judaism
  - o Jesus’ revelation of the nonviolent God (*imitatio Dei*)

## Session 3 The Church’s Peace Witness

- A new Way of viewing the history of the church
- Pacifism in the Early Church
- Francis of Assisi
- Dorothy Day (Catholic Worker Movement)
- Anabaptists
- Oscar Romero, MLK,
- American Denominational Peace Initiatives

## Session 4 Addressing Divine Violence within the Bible

- wherever there is justification for violence, there is myth (definition of myth in mimetic theory)
- distinguishing myth (justification of violence) and gospel (unmasking of this justification)
- why we must understand these two opposing threads/traditions/perspectives in Scripture

### **Session 5 Letting Go and Letting God: Self Emptying in the Spirit**

- Philippians 2:5-11
- Jesus, 'Son of Man,' as the True Human

### **Session 6 The Extent of Divine Nonviolence: The 'Jesusness' of God**

- the subversive logic of Nicea (If Jesus is nonviolent and identical with the Father, then the Father is nonviolent)
- catechesis in the early church as the best example
- terms within the semantic field of 'nonviolence' from Jesus' ministry
  - o forgiveness (70 x 7) cf to Lamech Genesis 4
  - o mercy (is better than sacrifice)
  - o love (God, neighbor, enemy)
  - o compassion
  - o trust in God

### **Session 7 Contemporary Peacemaking: Justice or Reconciliation?**

- beware the tongue James 3 (cf. rhetoric of some anti-war movements)
- MLK Jr.
- South African Truth & Reconciliation Commission
- Amish at Nickel Mines
- Christian Peacemaker Teams

### **Session 8 The Love of Jesus as Our Guiding Principle and Future Hope**

- Jesus the embodiment of God's love and will
- Love as the fulfillment of the law
- Discipleship as *theosis* :*becoming like God* (by imitation of Jesus)
- Resurrection = the hope of *human* transformation
- The greatest of these is love (I Cor 13)
- Love as the energy that creates peace (love of God, neighbor & enemy)