

- Where it wouldn't take much to push us over the edge and come crashing down like an old broken fence
- It could be
 - The boss who's trying to push you out of your job
 - Peers at school who are systematically targeting you
 - Debilitating illness that saps your physical and mental strength
 - The fractured relationship that killing your joy
- And as you face pressures like that ... it can be despairing
 - You wonder
 - Will this ever end?
 - I don't think I can cope with this
 - Will I ever get through this?
 - I'm not sure I can keep going
- One pressure that is going to increasingly threaten our security is the growing hostility that our society is expressing towards Christians and Christianity
- It's happening here in Australia and it's happening in other countries around the world
 - A Presbyterian preacher in Hobart wrote a blog article in which he addressed same-sex marriage from a biblical and pastoral perspective. The Anti-discrimination commissioner accepted a complaint against him
 - Churches were vandalised in the lead up to the marriage plebiscite
 - A young university student asked another student if she would like prayer. He was told by university authorities that he had challenged a student's beliefs, and was subsequently suspended. The university informed him that he was to attend fortnightly counselling and that he would be forcibly removed should he step foot on the university campus
 - Last year an 18-year-old Australian Christian girl was dismissed from her job after putting an "It's OK to Vote No" filter on her Facebook profile.
- Christians who live out their lives as Christians ought to expect that this pressure and hostility will continue on the same trajectory and only continue to get worse
 - That's the pressure you're going to face if you're a follower of Jesus
 - That's the future Zac is facing as a follower of Jesus

