



Word

Recap

John's letters are unique because of the timing. John has **outlived** all the apostles and most of the first eyewitness of Jesus and His resurrection.

He is writing to a church that has **not seen or experienced** the events of the Gospels or the book of Acts (90AD)

Recap

Themes of 1st John

Jesus is **real** (2nd Generation)

Jesus is **true** (Gnosticism)

Recap

John's letter is as important today as it was two thousand years ago. We are wrestling with much the **same** issues today.

You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church... and Rethinking Faith, David Kinnaman

The next generation is caught between two possible destinies—one moored by the power and depth of the Jesus-centered gospel and one anchored to a cheap, Americanized version of the historic faith that will snap at the slightest puff of wind. Without a clear path to pursue the true gospel, millions of young Christians will look back on their twentysomething years as a series of **lost opportunities** for Christ.

You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church... and Rethinking Faith, David Kinnaman

“The **dropout problem** touches countless students, parents, and faith leaders, but many of these have only a vague grasp of what, exactly, the dropout phenomenon is. The first step in the discovery process is to understand two simple facts: Teenagers are some of the most religiously active Americans. American twentysomethings are the least religiously active.”

You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church... and Rethinking Faith, David Kinnaman

"We are at a critical point in the life of the North American church; the Christian community must **rethink** our efforts to make disciples. Many of the assumptions on which we have built our work with young people are rooted in modern, mechanistic, and mass production paradigms. Some (though not all) ministries have taken cues from the assembly line, doing everything possible to streamline the manufacture of shiny new Jesus-followers, fresh from the factory floor. But disciples cannot be mass-produced.

Disciples are handmade, one relationship at a time."

Unfortunately, while evangelicals are understandably and justifiably preoccupied with bringing people through the front door of the church, too many seem relatively inattentive and uninformed as to **HOW** and **WHY** people are **leaving** through the back door. **Michael Lee**

Either Jesus was who He said He was and can only do what is in His divine power to do. **Or** the Jesus people follow or believe in is not the person of scripture.

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the **Word** of life. [1 John 1:1](#)

In the beginning the **Word** already existed. [John 1:1](#)

The term has been used with various meanings
by ancient philosophers since **500BC**

[they] began to adopt the word and use it to signify that
which gives **shape, form, or life** to the material universe

This is what logos meant to Heraclitus,
Sophists, Plato, and Aristotle.

Logos means in classical Greek both "**reason**" and "**word**." The translation "**thought**" is probably the best equivalent for the Greek term, since it indicates, on the one hand, the faculty of reason, or the thought inwardly conceived in the mind; and, on the other hand, the thought outwardly expressed through the vehicle of **language**.

the Greek word logos has been used with a certain degree of agreement by a series of thinkers to express and define the **nature** and **form** of God's revelation

Consequently, John's theology of the Logos is **incarnational**. Jesus did not merely reveal the Father as a theological construct. Instead, He "put a face" on God. Jesus shows us what God is like in human terms. [Dr. John Koessler](#)

According to John's conception about
Jesus, He **creates** (logos) out of
nothing or out of what is broken/dead

This one who is life itself was **revealed** to us, and we have seen him. And now we **testify** and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was **revealed** to us. *Vs 2*

It seems to John that anyone who has truly met Jesus can't help but **proclaim** Him

We **proclaim** to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have **fellowship** with us. And our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully **share** our joy. **Vs 3-4**

From vs 1-4 John uses **8 images** of Jesus as tactile and real. And because He is real we are shown God's version of "**life**"

"Word of life...The life appeared...eternal life"

This **reality** is important for the next **phase**

The second generation of believers need to know that Jesus wasn't an **idea** or **myth** created by their parents

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are **lying** if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not **practicing the truth**. But if we are living in the **light**, as God is in the **light**, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. [Vs 5-7](#)

The one who is the true **light**, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. [John 1:9](#)

Here is the **challenge**, are you living the truth (light) or are you living a lie (darkness)

We prove this by our **beliefs** and **behaviour** (practicing truth)

If we **claim** to be without sin, we **deceive** ourselves and the **truth** is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from **all** unrighteousness. If we **claim** we have not sinned, we make him out to be a **liar** and his **word** is not in us. **Vs 8-10**



"Can God **forgive** me?"

This is exactly what subsequent generations would **struggle** with. Eye witnesses would accept this more readily because they saw the reality of this in Jesus ministry. But for us, it seems too good to be true.

Divine forgiveness may improve mental health, Dr. Frank D. Fincham

Experiencing **divine forgiveness** is important to self forgiveness, which, in turn impacts the quality of our relationships as well as our mental health and well-being. Professors Frank D. Fincham and Ross W. May of Florida State University, have presented preliminary evidence that feeling forgiven by God is associated with fewer depressive symptoms in a sample of healthy emerging adults.

Divine forgiveness may improve mental health, Dr. Frank D. Fincham

This oversight notwithstanding, forgiveness is deeply rooted in religious teachings. **Developing a better understanding of divine forgiveness can substantially enrich our grasp of how, when and why people forgive.** Considering the link between ability to forgive and quality of life, these insights could, in turn, translate into effective strategies for improving and maintaining good health.

We have been given a **divine** gift but
I don't think we **realize** it or **live** it

We have **detached** the gift/truth from the **person**

This doesn't happen
without this



Divinity (Word, creation)

Decision (dark/light, life)



Forgiveness (deception, faith)

Forgiveness is the **intentional** seeking
of a **restored active** relationship

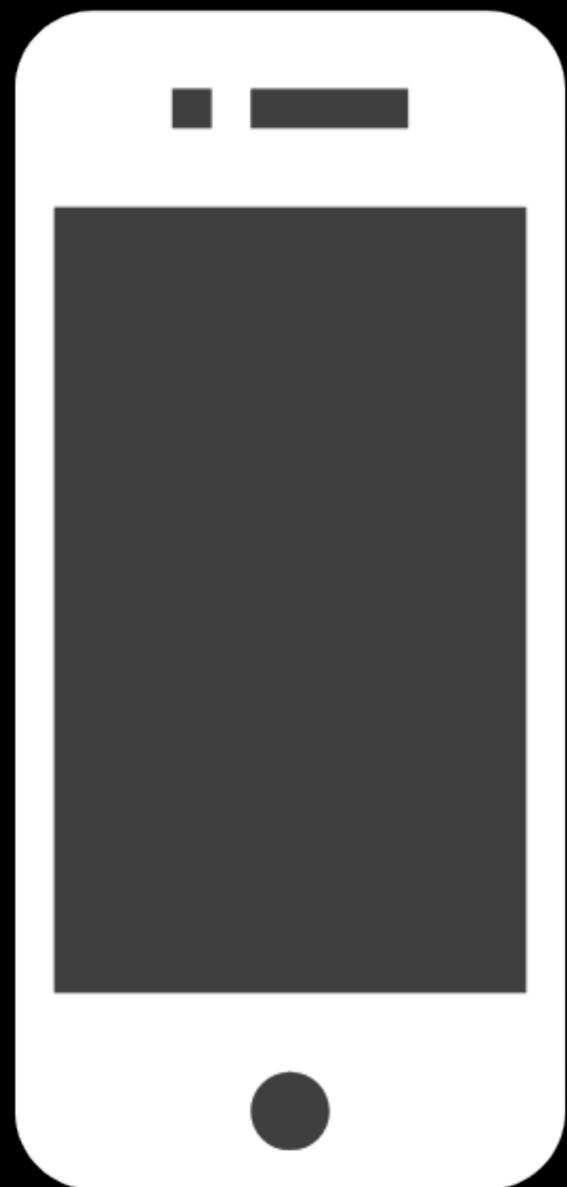
It is also our path to **sustained exposure** to the divine

Jesus didn't come to make bad people **good**. He came to make dead people **alive**.

Create (logos) in me a clean heart, O God. Psalm 51:10a

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