



The Anti-Christian

Recap

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever [1 John 2:15-17 ESV](#)

Recap

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: **‘Mine!’**” [Abraham Kuyper](#)

Recap

I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **I’m not asking you to take them out of the world**, but to keep them safe from the evil one. **They do not belong to this world** any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, **I am sending them into the world.** [John 17:14-18](#)

Christian, What Do You Believe? Probably a Heresy About Jesus, Says Survey, Jeremy Weber

Overall, US adults appear to have a **superficial** attachment to well-known Christian beliefs...For example, a majority agreed that Jesus died on the cross for sin and that he rose from the dead.

they **rejected** the Bible's teaching on (1) the gravity of man's sin, (2) the importance of the church's gathering together for worship, and (3) the Holy Spirit,

Christian, What Do You Believe? Probably a Heresy About Jesus, Says Survey, Jeremy Weber

Strangely, while most evangelicals strongly believe in justification by faith alone, they are **confused** about the person of Jesus Christ. On one hand, virtually all evangelicals express support for **Trinitarian** doctrine. Yet at the same time, most agree that Jesus is the first and greatest being **created** by God, which was a view espoused by the ancient heretic Arius.

Christian, What Do You Believe? Probably a Heresy About Jesus, Says Survey, Jeremy Weber

In the survey, 6 in 10 Americans agree that "religious belief is a matter of **personal** opinion [and] not about **objective** truth"

A majority of US adults (59%) say that the Holy Spirit is a **force**, not a personal being.

"**zeal** without knowledge."

People tend to construct their **own image of God**, and he is more like a guardian angel than an "old man with a long white beard." A plurality of almost two out of five Canadians (37%), and the same percentage in Québec, believe in their own constructed image of God.

a belief in a "force" that connects us to nature, the cosmos, the universe, is one of the strongest rising trends. We are witnessing a **depersonalization** of the divine, a kind of **postmodern Buddhism** that makes people feel that they are participating in the divine, that they are a part of it, just as nature is ("May the force be with you!"). Adherence to this pantheist vision has grown from 11% of the Canadian population in 1998 to 21% in 2016 (up from 14% to 28% in Québec).

1 John 2:18-29

John applies his third test by which you may evaluate the soundness of a teacher, as well as your own life. He has already given us the **moral** test of obedience to God's commandments. He has given the **relational** test of love. Now he gives the **doctrinal** test of truth about the person and work of Jesus Christ. [Steve Cole](#)

Dear children, the **last hour is here**. You have heard that **the Antichrist** is coming, and already **many such antichrists** have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. [Vs 18](#)

Last Days

Last days has always been understood as being from **Christ's ascension to the present**. Almost every generation has thought that their time was the "last days." The benefit of this is to keep our place in the **temporal** in proper context. The danger is using the **newspaper** to interpret the bible.

The Anti-Christian

As teachers of God's Word, we need to be careful not to "go beyond the text". Especially in the area of **eschatology** which is complex and already suffers the scorn and derision of skeptics. A good rule of thumb is this: **the more unusual an idea, the greater the requirement that it be unambiguously supported by clear statements in Scripture**. Where an unusual idea lacks clear Scriptural support, we would be better served keeping it to ourselves until such time, if ever, when we can provide due Scriptural evidence. [Tony Garland](#)

The Anti-Christian

The term **antichrist** only appears in John's letters (4x)

The 7 Most Popular Contenders for the Title 'Antichrist', Joe Carter

the Roman Catholic Papacy American President

Hitler

Napoleon

Many Biblical scholars believe that the number of the beast in Revelation 13:18 is a numerical reference to Emperor Nero, whose name in Greek when transliterated into Hebrew, retains the value of 666, whereas his Latin name transliterated into Hebrew, is 616.

The Anti-Christian

Anyone who **denies** the Son doesn't have the Father
left our churches
a **liar**

Anyone who **denies** the Father and the Son
Anyone who says that Jesus is **not** the Christ
lead you **astray**

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The Greek word used here for "antichrist" can have two meanings. First, it can mean "**against Christ**," in the sense of someone or some power who opposes Christ and His work. Second, the word can mean "**instead of Christ**," signifying a person or power who **takes the place of Christ**—a counterfeit Christ.

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Antichrists are not **atheists**. They are not pagans waging a war against Jesus. They are individuals who are preaching a gospel, but it is not the **true** gospel. It is a "**different gospel**."

This is an important distinction, the bible sees these antichrists as being **within** the church

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Disfellowship/Disunity

These people **left** our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it **proved** that they did not belong with us. *Vs 19*

One common characteristic of those who are immature (to downright evil) is the **inability** to get along/stay **within** a community of faith. The term antichrist should tell you the seriousness of this **accusation**

Red letter Christians,
Jesus movement

The Anti-Christian Trinity/Father Son

And who is a **liar**? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who **denies** the Father and the Son is an antichrist. [Vs 22](#)

"Trinitarian heresies tend to focus on one divine Person or another while **devaluing** the other two." [Thaddeus Williams](#)

The Anti-Christian Leaving Community

I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to **lead you astray**. [Vs 26](#)

Satan's greatest ambassadors are not pimps, politicians, or power-brokers, but pastors. His priests do not peddle a different religion, but a deadly **perversion** of the true one. [Tim Challies](#)

The anti-Christian isn't content to just leave, they want **others** to follow

The Anti-Anti-Christian The Holy Spirit

But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his **Spirit**, and all of you know the truth. [Vs 20](#)

But you have received the **Holy Spirit**, and he lives within you [Vs 27](#)

The Anti-Anti-Christian The Holy Spirit

"I remind you that there are churches so completely out of the hands of God that if the Holy Spirit **withdrew** from them, they wouldn't find it out for many months" [AW Tozer](#)

He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into **all truth**. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because **he lives with you now and later will be in you**. [John 14:17](#)

The Anti-Anti-Christian

Fight for **community** (humility)

Embraces Father, Son and Spirit (salvation)

Live the **truth** (belief and behaviour)

Reliant upon the Holy Spirit
(dependent and transforming)

And now, dear children, remain in **fellowship** with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in **shame**. Since we know that Christ is **righteous**, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children. [Vs 28-29](#)

John's understanding of the anti-Christ is not so much prophetic as it is **relational**. It's like John is saying that whatever is the **opposite** (anti-christ) of Jesus (in belief and behaviour), that he (and other true disciples) should want nothing to do with these traits

In what **area** of your life are you anti-christian?

I also pray that you will **understand** the incredible greatness of God's **power** for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things **for the benefit of the church**. And the church is his body; **it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself**. *Ephesians 1:19-23*

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