

**TRUE
LIFE
REAL
LOVE**

Promoting True Life, Real Love

1 John 1:1-4

Follow the example of the Apostle John to promote true life and real love.

- The importance of living the truth of God we say we believe. | John 2:3-6
- Recognize the failed belief systems of our time and boldly address their weaknesses.
| John 2:18-26; Acts 20:28-29
- Promote the true nature and ministry of Jesus Christ. John 1:1-5, 14; | John 2:2
- Never lose the reality of sin through denial or deception. | John 1:8, 10
- Balance all teaching on truth with real relational love for others. | John 2:10; 3:17, 18; 4:21

Learn from the words of the Apostle John to promote true life and real love. | John 1:1-4

- Confirm your own knowledge and personal experiences in Jesus Christ. | John 1:1
"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life..."
 - What have you "**heard**" about Jesus?
 - | John 4:15 – Jesus is God
 - | John 4:2 – Jesus is man
 - | John 2:2 – Jesus died for your sins
 - | John 5:13 – Faith alone saves you
 - What have you "**seen/looked at**" Jesus doing for people? John 20:30-31, 21:24-25

What have you "**touched**" or experienced in your life from Jesus? John 1:14, Revelation 1
 - Make known your knowledge and experiences to others who need Jesus. | John 1:2-3
"...and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."
 - Express the true joy that results from knowing Jesus and loving other people. | John 1:4
"These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete."
John 15:7-11; 16:20-24; 17:13-19
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Digging Deeper:

Today we begin a new study called True Life, Real Love based on the writings of the Apostle John in his first letter called 1 John. Most likely he wrote to the believers living in Asia Minor, Turkey today, as they dealt with many false religions. His desire was to strengthen their knowledge and faith in the true Christ but also express an authentic, real love that is evident in both deeds and words. See the back of this page for group discussion and to dig deeper into this passage.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Discuss how you have seen Jesus work in the lives of others and how you have experienced Christ in your own.
2. How is “joy” part of your Christian experience? 1 John 1:4 says that our joy is complete as we know Christ. What do these verses teach you about joy? John 15:7-11; 16:20-24; 17:13-19
3. Where do you encounter the false beliefs listed in the chart below?
4. Donald W. Burdick described the Roman world at that time in this quote. See if you recognize some of these same traits in our world today: *“Apart from the Judaeo-Christian sphere, the world was religiously inclusivistic. There was always room for a new religion, provided of course that it was not of an exclusive nature. Syncretism, however, did not merely express itself in a mood of tolerance toward other faiths. Its characteristic expression was in the combination of various ideas and beliefs from different sources to form new or aberrant religions. This was the age of the developing mystery religions, the age of the occult, the age of the proliferation of Gnostic sects”* (The Letters of John the Apostle [Chicago: Moody, 1985], 4)

False Beliefs and their Consequences Rooted in Genesis 1:1-7 Adapted from Erwin Lutzer’s “Satan’s Evangelistic Strategy for This New Age.”

Classical Name	Original Lie of Satan	Resulting Beliefs	Contemporary Expressions
Pantheism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be like God • Pride: “I am God” • I make up my own truth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is a force, not personal • God is all that exists • Matter is illusionary • We are all gods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I control my own life • Many ways to God/salvation. Jesus is just a way to God. • Animal rights • Environmental extremism • Human potential “believe in yourself” • I determine my own truth. You have no right to tell me I am wrong
Reincarnation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You shall surely not die • Pride: “I determine my own destiny” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time is cyclical • We keep going around • No consequences for wrongdoing • Evolution • Life is random 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies disavow hell in death experiences • There is no judgment in death • Channeling • No fear of suicide • Cheaped value of life, Doctor assisted suicide • No one can know that they go to heaven after death • “You only live once, so make the most of it”
Relativism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will know good & evil • Pride: “I determine my own morals” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no absolutes • Morality depends on the situation • Whatever feels good is right • Evil is illusionary • Redefine sin for certain behaviors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible is not interpreted literally, rather allegorical or reinterpreted for “our times” • Sexual immorality • Abortion • Marriage redefined, live together outside marriage • Homosexual behavior accepted • Deviant lifestyles normalized • Schools devalue absolute truth • God’s commands are ignored or modified to accept sinful behavior • “Whatever works for you”
Spiritualism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your eyes will be opened • Pride: “I have all the knowledge I need” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can achieve enlightenment • You can consult inner guides • You are the light 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs • Horoscopes • Oprah’s classes, Marianne Williamson on a Course in Miracles • Spiritual mysticism • Develop my own spirituality without absolute truth • Focus on angels • “I am a spiritual person but not a religious person”

Next Steps:

1. Join a LifeGroup to begin experiencing the fellowship of 1 John 1:3. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community .Find out more at Connection Point Central in the lobby today or at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. Begin to sit closer to the front of the room and closer to other people in the Worship Center. Then begin a habit of introducing yourself, asking questions and talking to the people who sit near you in the services.
3. Consider coming on the Calvary to Turkey Trip to visit and learn about the region of the world where the epistles of John were written. For more information, visit the lobby table today or calvarylife.org/turkey



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