

**“Is the Gospel of John a Credible Testimony or a Conspiracy Theory?”**

John 21:25 and Matthew 28:11–15

The Lord’s Day Morning

May 22, 2022

**Two Ways to Explain the Rise of Christianity**

1. The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ to communicate \_\_\_\_\_ that confirm the resurrection, therefore, non-Christians have fallen for a conspiracy theory.
2. The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ to commit \_\_\_\_\_ that concocts the resurrection, therefore, Christians have fallen for a conspiracy theory.

**Three Reasons People Believe Conspiracy Theories**

1. Desire for \_\_\_\_\_: I have special knowledge, insight, research that explains the events around me.
2. Desire for \_\_\_\_\_: There are things I can do to control events and protect myself, especially by spreading my insights.
3. Desire for \_\_\_\_\_: Believing this theory makes me part of a group working together against bad people.

**Three Reasons to Believe the Gospel of John Is Not a Conspiracy Theory**

1. John’s consistent appeals to \_\_\_\_\_ (facts) not \_\_\_\_\_ (feelings).
2. The sustained unity of the disciples without \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The absence of political or financial \_\_\_\_\_ for the disciples.

**Application**

1. To guard the credibility of the church in spreading the gospel, exercise extreme caution in spreading current \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To learn to evaluate truth claims, practice Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.