



LETTERS OF John

1 & 2 & 3 John

The Letters of John | “Stop With the Fake!”

1 John 1:1-10 & 2:1-2

Last week’s message: [Click here for message & notes!](#)→VISION: [Click HERE](#) to learn more about fasting and join us.

I sit in this chair because I believe it is real...and not broken.→Nobody wants to sit in broken chair!→1 John 1:1-2:2

→**Summary:** Nobody wants to live with deceivers. We expect people to be honest with us so we can rely on them, not get sucker punched by things they haven’t told us, and build our lives on solid ground. Nowhere does the Truth matter more than when building spiritual communities! Why? Our beliefs impacts how we live. Building a genuine and authentic community requires honesty about who Jesus and ourselves in order that we may fully share each others’ joy in fellowship.

→**Want to live a more genuine & authentic life?**→Marriage. Kids. Church.→**Bible Project**→To download, [Click here!](#)

→**Text Background:** [John](#) writes to rebut deceptive teaching advocating for compromise. His churches were influenced by [Gnostics](#) (who believed “sin” was ignorance of spirit’s superiority over matter, thus anything done in the body didn’t matter), [Cerinthians](#) (a form of Gnosticism), & the [Docetists](#) (who believed in Jesus as a divine mirage). John challenges our faith through the right view of Jesus (**doctrine**) & keeping His commands/love (**praxis**).

1 John 1:1-2:2: *1 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. 2 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. 3 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. 4 We are **writing** these things so that you may fully share our joy.*

We PREACH Jesus who REALLY came in person.→Seen, heard & touched!→No fairy tale / legend!→CS Lewis Quote
• [John 1:1-18](#) & [Genesis 1](#) & [Proverbs 8](#)→Incarnation = The Word of Life SHOWED UP.→Fellowship→JOY
• How do we know we are preaching the correct Jesus?→We know Scripture/THE WORD.→“Counterfeit detection”
• VISION: The Word. [Click HERE](#) to join us in reading the Bible.→Prayer: Lord, reveal Jesus to us through Your Word.
→TRANSITION: Jesus REALLY came in person bc this life we are living MATTERS...our bodies/communities...MATTER!

5 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. 6 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. 7 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.

We FELLOWSHIP with God & each other by living like Jesus.→Live in the light!→We can’t deny sin.→Not authentic!
• “miss the mark”: **pride** (humility), **greed** (generosity), **lust** (purity), **envy** (gratitude), **gluttony** (self-control), **wrath** (patience), **sloth** (diligence)→Sin ruins fellowship w/God & people.→Where am I missing the mark / not like Jesus?
• Where are we living in darkness?→Water washes the body...blood washes our soul.
• VISION: [Click HERE](#) to download the Recalibrate tool.→Prayer: Lord, help us to see what we don’t see.
→TRANSITION: So...do we have to be perfect? An authentic life is not a perfect life...but does require honesty.

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

We CONFESS our sins to receive forgiveness & cleansing through Jesus. → Confession creates authenticity.

- We confess our sins to God because he's already "provided the ram." → Jesus → The Lord's Prayer. (Download Guide)
- Confession creates authentic community, but forgiveness restores life. → Authenticity is NOT enough. LIFE-GIVING!
- **TIP:** We ALWAYS confess our sin to God, but not always to the person we've sinned against. → Good for them?
- **CONSEQUENCES:** Sin must be forgiven because loss is real. → Atonement = comp. for offense/injury. → Candy Bar
- Prayer: Lord, we confess our sin & receive your forgiveness.

→ **TRANSITION:** Nobody wants fake. They want the real Jesus...to walk in genuine faith...and to create authentic community where God can restore lives. John knew...this is what matters.

→ **Stop with the fake. Start with faith! Be authentic.**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What makes someone a genuine and authentic person?
2. Why does genuine & authenticity matter in a spiritual community?
3. How can I know who the genuine and authentic Jesus was/is?
4. Why is it important for followers of Jesus to genuinely pursue living like Jesus?
5. How does confession lead to a more authentic Christian community?
6. **PRAYER:** "Father, remove the fake in us and make our faith genuine and authentic!"

QUOTES / SONGS:

- "Now, as a literary historian, I am perfectly convinced that whatever else the Gospels are they are not legends. I have read a great deal of legend and I am quite clear that they are not the same sort of thing. They are not artistic enough to be legends. From an imaginative point of view they are clumsy, they don't work up to things properly. Most of the life of Jesus is totally unknown to us, as is the life of anyone else who lived at that time, and no people building up a legend would allow that to be so. Apart from bits of the Platonic dialogues, there is no conversation that I know of in ancient literature like the Fourth Gospel. There is nothing, even in modern literature, until about a hundred years ago when the realistic novel came into existence." - **CS Lewis**

GRAPHICS / VIDEOS:

- **Bible Project 123 John Graphic:** [Click here!](#)
- **Bible Project Video:** [Click Here for Youtube Separate Browser Window.](#)



ARTICLES / BOOKS:

- Counterfeit Detection Pt.1: <https://www.challies.com/articles/counterfeit-detection-part-1/>
- Counterfeit Detection Pt.2: <https://www.challies.com/articles/counterfeit-detection-part-2/>

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **John 8:12** - 12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

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