

Encounter Church
Sunday February 8, 2026

God's Love Language
First Impressions

INTRODUCTION: First Impressions are the immediate, often lasting, judgements or mental images formed about a person, place, or thing, within seconds of an initial encounter.

These first impressions are often based on limited information like appearance, body language, and speech, these rapid and often subconscious evaluations significantly influence future interactions and perceptions, which can be difficult to change.

Have you ever heard of the 7/11 rule. They say that people make 11 decisions about you in the first 7 seconds of contact.

IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:

We find one of the most profound portraits of Jesus Christ, yet the most relatable.

In the gospel of John we meet the Savior face to face and we pull back the curtain on ***who Jesus really is!***

If I were to have never read a Bible before and never been in a church or never been around other Christians and then opened a Bible to read the Book of John I believe you and I would have the most accurate First Impression of Jesus Christ.

The most beautiful portrait of Jesus is the greatest truth, that God loves you!

John 3:16-(AMP)- "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life."

John, the author of the Book of John, describes himself as "the disciple whom Jesus Loved!"

Key Statement: ***When we stop defining ourselves by our failures, but rather as the one whom Jesus loves, it changes the way we view God. It change the way we see ourselves and it changes the way we see the world!***

John wrote this account to convince unbelievers that the eternal Son of God had come to save them from their sins.

John wrote this account to convince believers to walk more fully in the light and love of their Savior!

Jesus not only gives life, he is the life!

Jesus not only gives light, he is the light!

THE CORE MESSAGE OF JOHN: Jesus as the Son of God, a walking, talking, demonstration of God's love, brings the light and life of salvation to the world!

John 1:1-5- (NLT)- "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."

MANY OF US GREW UP WITH THIS LIE! "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me."

Our words carry meaning, they carry weight! Our words carry intent and promises!

Our words are an expression of who we are, what we think and how we feel!

Just as your words express your thoughts, hopes, dreams and desires GOD SENT JESUS, THE WORD, WHO WAS DIVINE IN ALL HIS WAYS, TO EXPRESS HIS THOUGHTS, HOPES, AND DREAMS FOR HIS LOST CHILDREN!

JESUS IS A LIVING EXPRESSION OF GOD!

The God of eons past and the everlasting future was so crazy-passionate about his children that he made a radical move to show his love!

That's what the living expression of God is all about and that should be our FIRST IMPRESSION!

And not only our First Impression but the First Impression of everyone we come in contact with that doesn't know Jesus Christ.

JESUS IS THE "WORD!" (Greek). JESUS IS THE "LOGOS" OF GOD!

John identifies Jesus as the "***eternal, divine expression of God***" that was present at creation, through whom everything was made, and who became incarnate as a human being to reveal God's nature and bring salvation into the world!

The living expression was and is God!

When Jesus was born in the manger that day, that was not his beginning. When Mary his mother became pregnant with Jesus, that was not his beginning!

Jesus had no beginning-he was with God as part of the Godhead, present and active in creation!

WHAT IS OUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE DIVINE EXPRESSION OF GOD?

1. Jesus is fully God

“The Word was God.” John 1:1

C.S. Lewis wrote-“Jesus was either lying (and therefore not a good man) or he was lunatic (since he allowed himself to be crucified over his claims) or HE WAS THE DIVINE LORD!

2. God wants to be close to his people.

God has always longed to be close to his people!

John 1:14 -(NKJV)- “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

“Dwelt among us” literally means, “He pitched his tent among us.”

Jesus is God’s presence with us, in the midst of us, living with us.

3. Jesus is the Way for us to be close to the Father.

John 14:6 (NKJV)- “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Jesus is the truth embodied in human flesh!

John 1:14 (NKJV)- Jesus was “.....full of grace and truth.”

John 1:17-(NKJV)- “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

CONCLUSION: Have you ever experienced a birthday or Christmas or special occasion when someone went over and beyond to shower you with extravagance? So much so you felt like saying “ENOUGH, I DON’T DESERVE THIS!”

John 1:16-18 (MSG)- “We all live off his generous abundance, gift after gift after gift. We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding— all this came through Jesus, the Messiah.

No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-Expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day."

John 1:16 (TPT)- And from the overflow of his fullness we received grace heaped upon more grace!"

IS THAT YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER? BECAUSE THIS IS THE EXPRESSION OF HIS CHARACTER THROUGH HIS SON JESUS!

ONE MORE THING:

John 1:18 (TPT)- "No one ever before gazed upon the full splendor of God except his uniquely beloved Son, who is cherished by the Father and held close to his heart. Now that he has come to us, he has unfolded the full explanation of who God truly is!"

Jesus came to this earth from the closest place of intimacy with Father God!

What does that say to you about how God the Father feels about his children?

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us" A.W. Tozer

Let's Pray: Holy Spirit, draw every person to Jesus!