



Recap

1 John 5:6-12

If you could send a letter to yourself in the past, what would you say about your **faith** journey?

Water Start **Three Witnesses (The Life)** **Recap**
 Repentance, resurrection, choosing THE new life
 A true disciple is one who has authentically changed their life **direction** and **continually** gives areas of their lives to God

Blood Forgiveness, sacrifice, new covenant

Persevere A true disciple **continually** seeks forgivenesses and never believes this gift is too **little** or too **far** from them

Spirit Transform Transformation, power, baptism
 A true disciple actively **seeks** and **surrenders** to the Spirit

2nd gen may have adopted Jesus without counting the cost

Recap

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. **For apart from me you can do nothing.** Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! **When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.** This brings great glory to my Father. [John 15:5-8](#)

Second Generation

"By 90 A.D., enough time had elapsed for many of the things Paul spoke to have begun to occur. Apostasy was underway. There were many who were **untaught** and they provided fruitful ground for **false teachers** who had already departed from the faith. William Barclay, describing this' condition, states that "certain things had almost inevitably happened within the church." [Ray Stedman](#)

Biblical and theological **ignorance** always brings conflict and drift within the church

Second Generation

"...Many were now **second or even third generation** Christians. The thrill of the first days had, to some extent at least, passed away. In the first days of Christianity there was a glory and a splendour, but now Christianity had become **a thing of habit, traditional, half-hearted, nominal.**' Men had grown used to it and something of the wonder was lost. John was, writing at a time when, for some at least, the first thrill was gone and the flame of devotion had died to a flicker" [Ray Stedman](#)

Second Generation

First generation of Christian's **believed** the gospel and held as well that there were certain social, economic, and political entailments (behaviour).

The next generation **assumed** the gospel, but identified with the entailments.

The following generation **denied** the gospel: the "entailments" became everything.

The first generation is **holy**; the second generation is **religious**; and the third generation is **godless**.

Apathetic about Your Apathy? Here is Why a Lukewarm Church is a Bigger Problem Than We Think, Michael J. Kruger

The problem, of course, with being apathetic is that you can actually **be apathetic about your apathy!** Put simply an apathetic church does not think it is that big of deal. But, here are some reasons apathy is a bigger deal than we think

Apathetic about Your Apathy? Here is Why a Lukewarm Church is a Bigger Problem Than We Think, Michael J. Kruger

Apathy towards Christ can be more dangerous than enmity towards Him. The fundamental reason people miss the problem of apathy is because they assume its better than being an enemy of God. It's **halfway to being committed**, they think, and thus better than being against God. It's a step in the right direction.

Apathetic about Your Apathy? Here is Why a Lukewarm Church is a Bigger Problem Than We Think, Michael J. Kruger

Apathy towards Christ is the religion of our age. Another factor that makes an apathetic church a problem is that it feeds our **culture's perception that religion is best in moderation**. Ironically, while Jesus says apathy is the worst spiritual condition, our culture contends that it is the best!

Apathetic about Your Apathy? Here is Why a Lukewarm Church is a Bigger Problem Than We Think, Michael J. Kruger

Apathy towards Christ is out of sync with his **worthiness**. The core problem with Christian apathy, the thing that makes it so serious, is the thing we are apathetic about, namely the **person of Christ**. There is an enormous disparity between the glory, wonder, and beauty of Christ and our bored, tepid, "whatever" sort of response to him. And it is this sizable gap between what Christ is worth and our **lackluster reaction** to him that makes apathy such a problem.

1 John 5:13-21

John will use the word '**know**'
seven times in this final passage

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know** that you have eternal life. This is the **confidence** we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to **his will**, he hears us. And if we **know** that he hears us—whatever we ask—we **know** that we have what we asked of him. [Vs 13-15](#)

know that you have eternal life

know that he hears us

know that we have what we asked of him

VS

not know that you have eternal life (**fear**)

not know that he hears us (**isolation**)

not know that we have what we asked of him (**doubt**)

The "knowing" is all about **confidence** in our **prayer** life. If the enemy cuts off our only path of grace, relationship and so much more, our **spiritual death** is certain

So they **hid** from the Lord God among the trees. [Genesis 3:8](#)

If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does **not lead to death**, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. **There is a sin that leads to death**. I am not saying that you should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. *Vs 16-17*

commit a sin that does not lead to death

These are wrong **beliefs** about Jesus. Remember John keeps asking his readers to be careful what they believe in (1 John 4:1-3). **Theological** error (belief always becomes behaviour) starts **subtly**, and John asks the community to keep watch before it becomes something worse

But **if** anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. *2:1*

Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not **cause** others to stumble. *2:10*

If you do, you will **remain** in fellowship *2:24*

But when people **keep** on sinning *3:8*

Our **actions** will show that we belong to the truth *3:19*

let us **continue** to love one another *4:7*

Sin that does not lead to death is a sin that is **caught** in time. Sin is not a singular act but a **direction** we choose

There is a sin that leads to death

John shows the progress of an unchecked **theological** belief that has grown into an error. The mistake we can make when we read this passage is that we think of one sin as opposed to a **series** of sins (unforgivable sin)

that person is a **liar**
and is not living in
the truth. 2:4

that person is
still living in
darkness. 2:9

is still living and
walking in
darkness. 2:11

you do not have
the **love** of the
Father in you 2:15

Anyone who
denies the Father
and the Son is an
antichrist. 2:22

These people left our
churches, but they never
really **belonged** with us 2:19

But a person who has no
love is still **dead**. 3:14

Everyone who sins is
breaking God's law, 3:4

If someone says, "I love God,"
but **hates** a fellow believer,
that person is a liar 4:20

Anyone who hates
another brother or sister
is really a **murderer** 3:15

You say, "I am allowed to do **anything**"—but
not **everything** is good for you. You say, "I
am allowed to do anything"—but not
everything is beneficial. 1 Corinthians 10:23

...let us strip off every weight that **slows** us down,
especially the sin that so easily **trips** us up... We do
this by keeping our **eyes on Jesus**... Hebrews 12:1,2

but each person is tempted when they are dragged
away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after
desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when
it is full-grown, **gives birth to death**. James 1:14-15

The point of James' cycle of sin (death) is not to point to
the end result but to show that it can be **interrupted**

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander
from the truth and someone should bring that person
back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the
error of their way will **save them from death** and
cover over a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. **We know** that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. **We know** also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may **know** him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. *Vs 18-20*

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one

We know also that the Son of God has come.. we may **know** him who is true

VS

Not know that anyone born...(**origin and grace**)

Not know that we are children of God...(**position and enemy**)

Not know the Son... or truth...(**salvation and truth**)

Consistently John comes back to our relationship with God. The **second** and **third** generation of believers require greater **faith** than the eye witnesses. In the absence of first hand experience John continues to point them to the **authentic** Jesus

John is **warning** us of what can rob us of our faith, the truth and God's love

Dear children, **keep (guard)** yourselves from **idols**. *Vs 21*

Keep/Guard: phulasso, stronger than tereo, "to keep."
The aorist, or point tense, here signifies the decisiveness of the command; there is to be no hesitation, no wavering; the command is to be constantly carried out, and at every point wholeheartedly fulfilled.

John tells us to "guard" ourselves from idols, which implies that we have something **valuable** that the enemy is trying to steal. [Steven Cole](#)

The enemies greatest weapon is the '**bait and switch**.' He doesn't simply **remove** God from our lives. Rather he **replaces** God with a counterfeit

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. 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. [1 John 1:1-2](#)



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