

# It's All About the Center Pt. 4

1 JOHN

1 John 1:1-4, Wednesday, October 8, 2025

### What pieces are involved (have weight) in deciding who is right in truth wars among professing Christians?

- Sometimes scared by complexity—this will hinder us getting deeper into the truth; however, we might follow someone into complexity when there are more touchpoints with Scripture (complex—made up of multiple parts)
- Who we are listening to (often listen to those with whom we align in other areas); what makes logical sense to us
- Often start with ourselves as the “piece that is right”
- Parts of our theology that are incomplete—would rather have incomplete puzzle than jam in pieces that don't belong (knowing when this is an interpretation versus when this is a final word)

# It's All About the Center Pt. 4

I John 1:1-4

## I. Identify the Center



## It's All About the Center Pt. 4 | John 1:1-4

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, **and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father**, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

## It's All About the Center Pt. 4 I John 1:1-4

“Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **so that you may live.**

Deuteronomy 30:6

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**In Him was life,** and the life was the Light of men.

John 1:4



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**And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,** and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 1:3

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see **the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.** 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:4-5

**What keeps us from coming back to these eyewitness accounts of One who was from the beginning as the final source of truth and life? Why are we so susceptible to similar but wrong teaching about this God?**

- Lack of respect for Word of God—for the ways that God has manifested Himself
- Valuing historians and those who analyze the findings more than the ones who were there themselves
- It seems so long ago—seems so distant; eyewitnesses seem to be those we can talk to right now—other things/voices seem larger-
- Why reveal to eyewitnesses instead of to everyone one of us? Perhaps being made in image of God, wants us to be ones carrying His image to others
- Laziness—don't want to do the work that others seem to have done
- To trust these eyewitnesses puts us in a position of dependence—their testimony has to be compelling because WE didn't experience it; what if what they say is compelling isn't compelling to us because it doesn't address what we bring to the table—i.e. Conspiracy theories call us to trust as well, but leads to condescend where WE have the knowledge and you don't; we know there are eyewitnesses that we shouldn't listen to; certain amount of confusion—process like Bereans- natural



## It's All About the Center Pt. 4 | John 1:1-4

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Robert Yarbrough

## What does this quote mean?

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- We are often not in our Bible as we should OR we get so focused on something special for me that forget that God must reveal it to us
- Often looking for what is relevant to us
- John is saying that truth is more than what we see in the natural world—through Creation and His acts
- There IS an absolute truth that we can not find on our own that must be revealed to us



## What does this quote mean?

- In purely naturalistic view, there are only sentience on one side—(self-existing side); there must be sentience on the other side (of the center/truth) as well—God—He has purpose FOR the body of truth; this other side is not observable in the same way as the first side--larger body of truth beyond what is observable; MUST continue to remind ourselves that there are things beyond what I know—what is my responsibility on both sides of the truth?



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Thoughts from this quote by Robert Yarbrough?

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‘If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the **evidence of witnesses**, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Numbers 35:30

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“A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

Deuteronomy 19:15



## It's All About the Center Pt. 4 I John 1:1-4

“It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.

Luke 21:13

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  
**and you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

## It's All About the Center Pt. 4 | John 1:1-4

“For if you believed **Moses**, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.

John 5:46

“Your father **Abraham** rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”

John 8:56

## It's All About the Center Pt. 4 | John 1:1-4

“**For we have heard how the LORD** dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 **“When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man** any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

Joshua 2:10-11



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and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, **for we have heard for ourselves and know** that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

John 4:42

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So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing by the word of Christ.**

Romans 10:17



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but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:31

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13



# It's All About the Center Pt. 4

I John 1:1-4

- I. Identify the Center
- II. The Center Determines Fellowship

**No matter what we say about what we believe/value, how would you determine the glue holding us together?**

- Find the common thing we all are saying
- What gets us all out to church together (to serve, to \_\_\_\_\_)
- What do we all love? What does love for each other look like?
- What refines us—what is left after fire or trial
- What books are we reading/who are we listening to

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Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 **but we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1 Corinthians 1:20-23

**5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.**

II Corinthians 4:5



## It's All About the Center Pt. 4 | John 1:1-4

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **has passed out of death into life**.

John 5:24

Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 **for they cannot even die anymore**, because they are like angels, and **are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection**.

Luke 20:34-36

**The real question: “Who has fellowship with the Father?”**  
If this is true, how should it affect what we look for and where we place our energy among the people of God?