



Religious organizations are viewed as antithetical to millennial and genZ values.

- ▶ Exclusive in an increasingly inclusive world
- ▶ Out of touch with culture (sexuality, science, etc.)
- ▶ Antagonistic to doubt and discussion

Religious organizations are viewed as antithetical to millennial and genZ values.

- ▶ Exclusive in an increasingly inclusive world
- ▶ Out of touch with culture (sexuality, science, etc.)
- ▶ Antagonistic to doubt and discussion



Part 1.
Loneliness and Friendship

THREE TYPES OF DOUBT

- ▶ Factual Doubt
- ▶ Emotional Doubt (80%)
- ▶ Volitional Doubt



- ▶ How can you help a person with *reasonable* doubt?
- ▶ How can you help a person with *emotional* doubt?
- ▶ What applies to *both*, regardless of the kind of doubt?



POINT:

What's far more important than having the right apologetic answers is drawing a person into a Christian community of friends who seeks the answers together.



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4



"Millennials, compared to their counterparts, read fewer newspapers, fewer magazines and books. They watch significantly less TV on the box. They spend less time physically in the presence of friends and family, and an overwhelming majority say they have no contact with their neighbours. They even walk around less in the physical world."

Brooke Donastone, "Why Are So Many Millennials Depressed?"

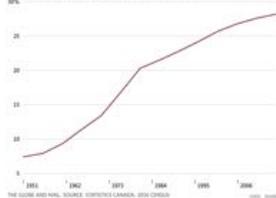


CENSUS 2016

Census 2016: More Canadians than ever are living alone, and other takeaways

Statistics Canada's latest release of census data paints a clearer picture of a Canada where single-person households, same-sex marriage, language diversity and bilingualism are on the rise. Gloria Galloway explains the highlights.

Percentage of one-person households in Canada, 1991 to 2016



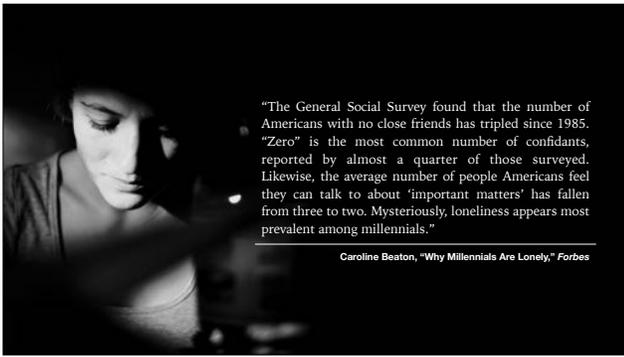
THE GUIDE AND MAIL SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 2006 CENSUS, 2011 CENSUS, 2016 CENSUS

2A. THE REALITY OF LONELINESS

"The average person has over 300 friends on Facebook, yet reports of loneliness have skyrocketed."

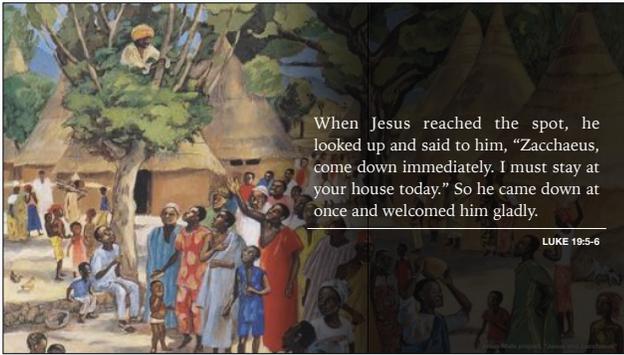
Anna Mikaela Kane, "The Friendship"





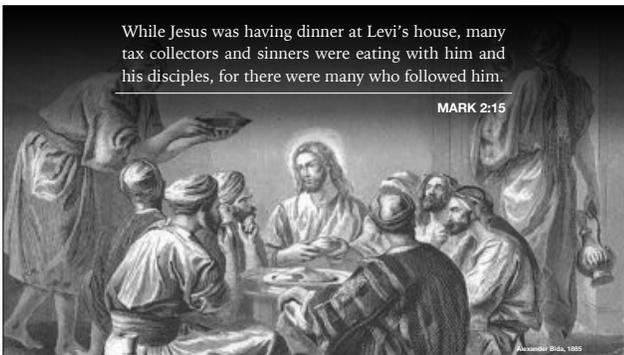
"The General Social Survey found that the number of Americans with no close friends has tripled since 1985. "Zero" is the most common number of confidants, reported by almost a quarter of those surveyed. Likewise, the average number of people Americans feel they can talk to about 'important matters' has fallen from three to two. Mysteriously, loneliness appears most prevalent among millennials."

Caroline Beaton, "Why Millennials Are Lonely," *Forbes*



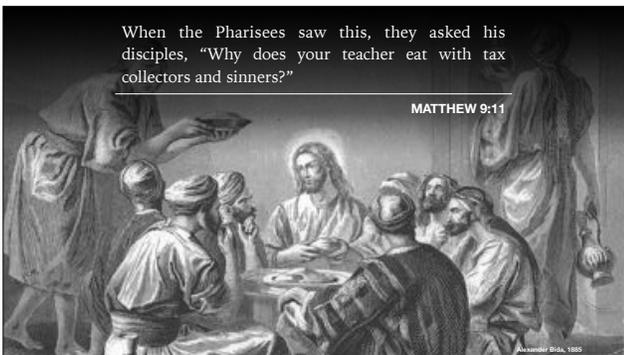
When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

LUKE 19:5-6



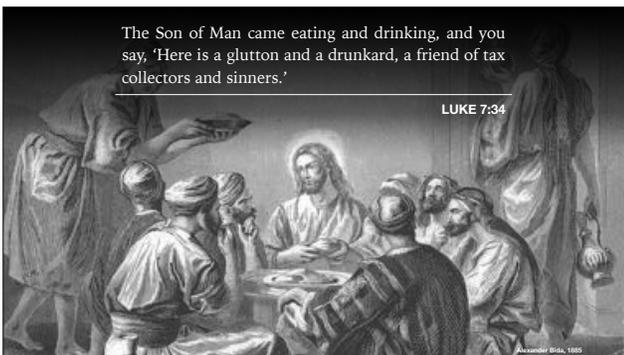
While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

MARK 2:15



When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

MATTHEW 9:11

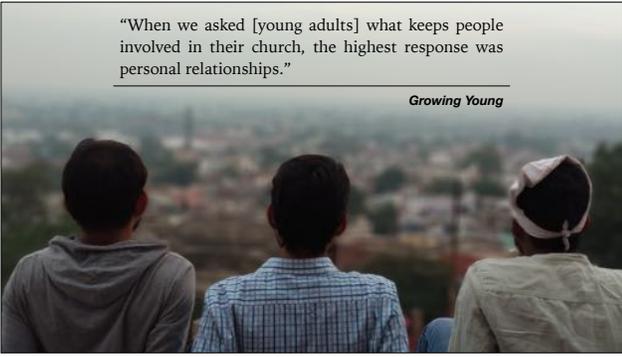


The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

LUKE 7:34

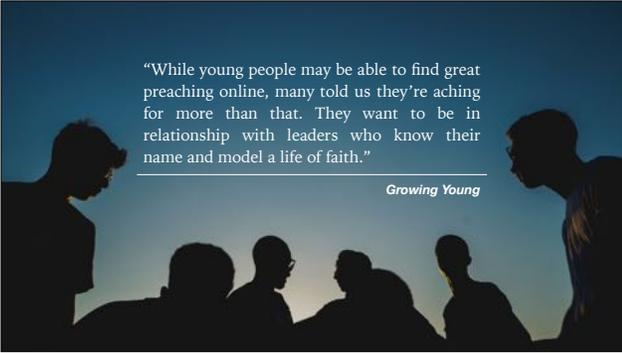
“When we asked [young adults] what keeps people involved in their church, the highest response was personal relationships.”

Growing Young



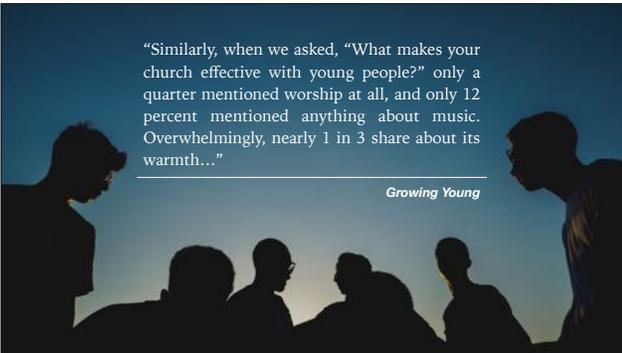
“While young people may be able to find great preaching online, many told us they’re aching for more than that. They want to be in relationship with leaders who know their name and model a life of faith.”

Growing Young



“Similarly, when we asked, “What makes your church effective with young people?” only a quarter mentioned worship at all, and only 12 percent mentioned anything about music. Overwhelmingly, nearly 1 in 3 share about its warmth...”

Growing Young



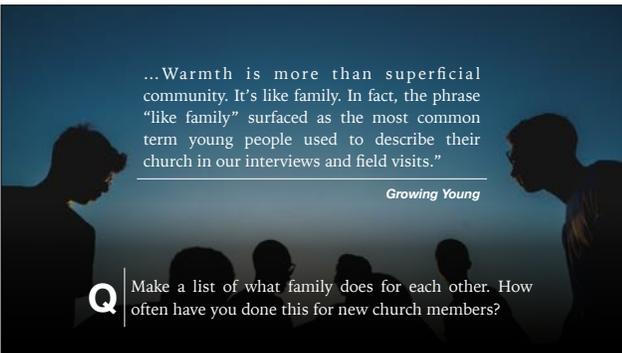
...Warmth is more than superficial community. It’s like family. In fact, the phrase “like family” surfaced as the most common term young people used to describe their church in our interviews and field visits.”

Growing Young

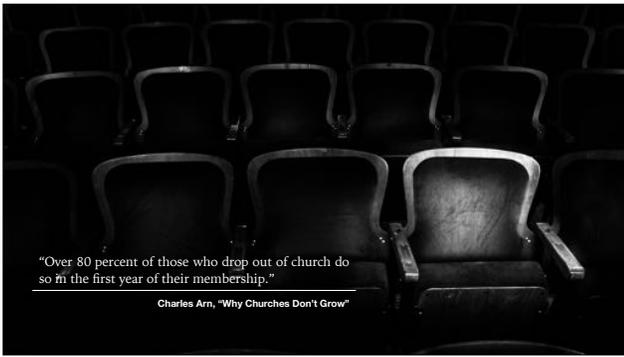


...Warmth is more than superficial community. It’s like family. In fact, the phrase “like family” surfaced as the most common term young people used to describe their church in our interviews and field visits.”

Growing Young

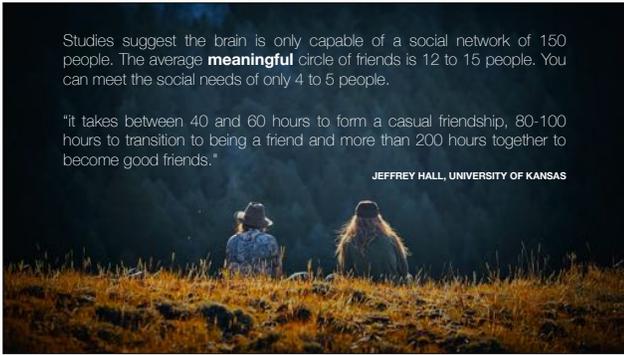


Q Make a list of what family does for each other. How often have you done this for new church members?



"Over 80 percent of those who drop out of church do so in the first year of their membership."

Charles Arn, "Why Churches Don't Grow"



Studies suggest the brain is only capable of a social network of 150 people. The average **meaningful** circle of friends is 12 to 15 people. You can meet the social needs of only 4 to 5 people.

"It takes between 40 and 60 hours to form a casual friendship, 80-100 hours to transition to being a friend and more than 200 hours together to become good friends."

JEFFREY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



20. FRIENDLESS CHRISTIANS AND THE DECLINE OF THE CHURCH

"Over 80 percent of those who drop out of church do so in the first year of their membership."

CHARLES ARN, "WHY CHURCHES DON'T GROW"



EXPLICIT FRIENDSHIP BUILDING

- * small groups
- * mentoring programs



SMALL GROUPS

- * 5 to 15
- * break bread
- * Bible study (pastor or lay-led?)
- * prayer













Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

Q I have the community. But how do I actively comfort with God's Word?

RE-ALIGNING WITH THE WORD

You have nothing to worry about. God is in control.

You have nothing to worry about. God is in control, and to him you're the most precious thing in the world. And you know that, because he died and rose and reigns for you.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ...do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

MATTHEW 6:25-26,34

RE-ALIGNING WITH THE WORD

Take a deep breath, be still, and remember who God is.

Your God is the creator of this universe, who brought Israel out of Egypt through the Red Sea, who fed the five-thousand, who brought Lazarus back to life, who rose from the dead, and who now sustains all things at the right hand of God.

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

EXODUS 14:14

RE-ALIGNING WITH THE WORD

God is with you, and he'll always be with you.

No matter what's going on in your life and in the world, you know your God who died for your sins and now reigns in heaven is with you.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

RE-ALIGNING WITH THE WORD



God is working this out for our eternal good.

Whatever things look like in life, we know God is making it work out for his good, eternal plan. So, you never have to worry that things won't work out according to your loving, forgiving God's plans for you.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

RE-ALIGNING WITH THE WORD



This will pass.

The hardships we experience as Christians is temporary. We can honestly say to each other, as Peter did, that our suffering will only be for "a little while." (1 Peter 1:6)

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

1 JOHN 2:7-8



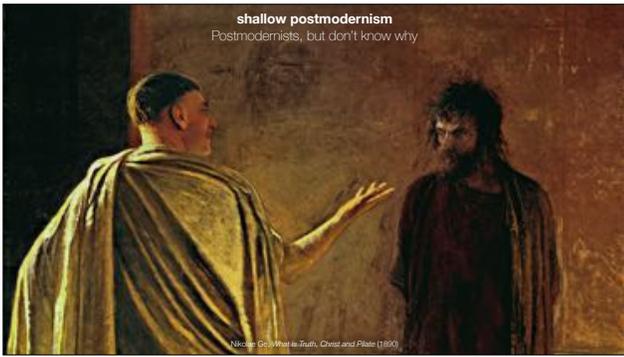
Part 2.
Engaging Culture

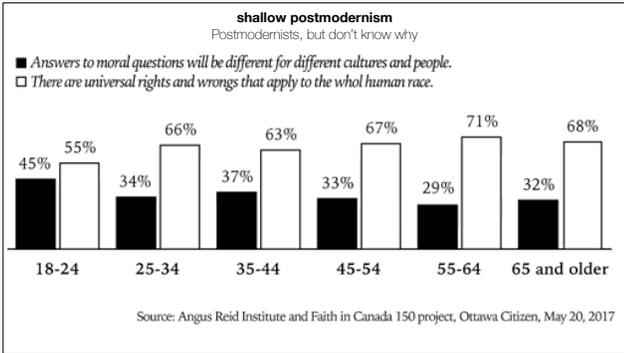
Religious organizations are viewed as antithetical to millennial and genZ values.

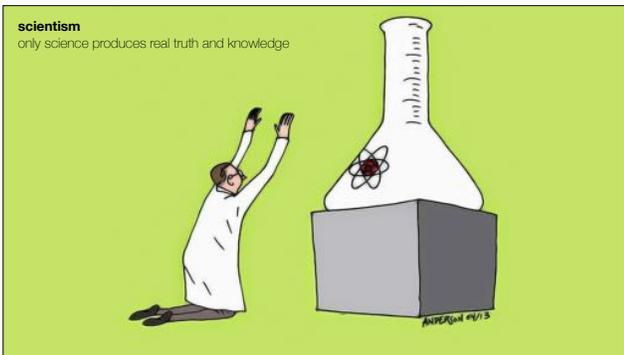
- ▶ Exclusive in an increasingly inclusive world
- ▶ Out of touch with culture (sexuality, science, etc.)
- ▶ Antagonistic to doubt and discussion

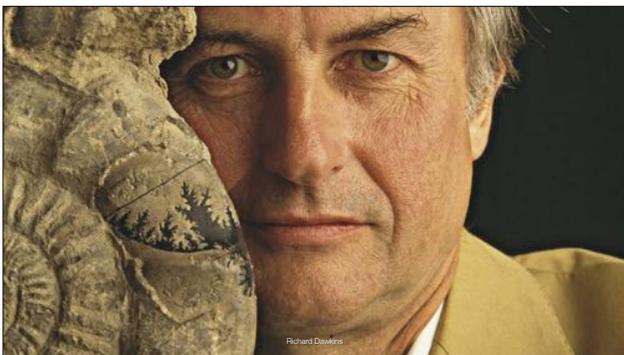
Religious organizations are viewed as antithetical to millennial and genZ values.

- ▶ Exclusive in an increasingly inclusive world
- ▶ Out of touch with culture (sexuality, science, etc.)
- ▶ Antagonistic to doubt and discussion

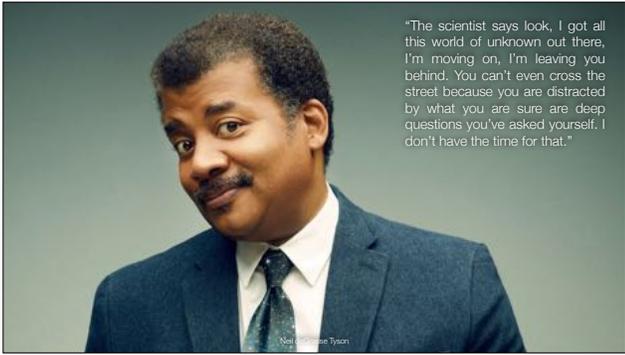






















THE APOLOGETIC TOOLBOX

- **God hides behind natural revelation**
Value arguments for the need for God
- **God hides behind his Word**
The preservation of the NT Canon
- **God hides behind the Cross and Resurrection**
The minimal facts
- **God hides behind our desire for a meaningful life**
Ecclesiastes, meaning in life cannot be justified without God

57



Q How do you respond to the claim that the message of Jesus as a Messianic Saviour from sins evolved over centuries?

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8

"...the elements in the tradition are to be dated to the first two years after the crucifixion of Jesus...not later than three years... the formation of the appearance traditions mentioned in I Cor.15.3-8 falls into the time between 30 and 33 CE."

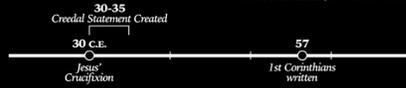
Gerd Lüdemann, *The Resurrection of Jesus*

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-8

"...the elements in the tradition are to be dated to the first two years after the crucifixion of Jesus...not later than three years... the formation of the appearance traditions mentioned in I Cor.15.3-8 falls into the time between 30 and 33 CE."

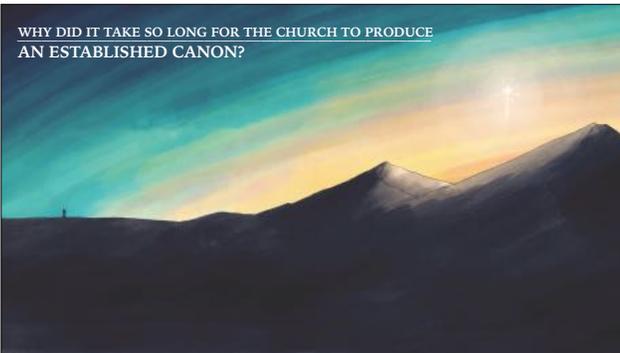
Gerd Lüdemann, *The Resurrection of Jesus*



where did
THE BIBLE
come from?



WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG FOR THE CHURCH TO PRODUCE AN ESTABLISHED CANON?



	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts	Romans	1. Corinth.	2. Corinth.	Galatians	Philippians	Colossians	1. Thess.	2. Thess.	1. Timothy	2. Timothy	Titus	Philemon	James	1. Peter	2. Peter	1. John	2. John	3. John	Jude	Revelation
Apostolic Fathers ¹ (c. 94-150)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Irenaeus (c. 130-202)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Clement of Alex. (c. 150-215)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tertullian (c. 150-215)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Canon of Muratorian (c. 150)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Origen (c. 185-254)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Old Latin Translation (c. 200)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cyril of Jerusalem (c. 315-86)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Eusebius (c. 325-400)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Council of Nicea (c. 325-40)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Codex Vaticanus (c. 325-350) ²	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Jerome, Vulgate (c. 340-420)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Alhamanus (c. 367)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Council of Hippo (c. 393)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Council of Carthage (c. 397)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Augustine (c. 400)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Old Syriac Translation (c. 400)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

¹ This combines citations from the following Apostolic Fathers and early works: Clement of Rome (c. 95-97), Ignatius of Antioch (c. 110), Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 110-50), Diadafe (c. 120-150), shepherd of Hermas (c. 115-140)
² Sections are missing from our earliest copies. Scholars believe 1&2 Tim, Titus, Philemon, and Rev were in the original.

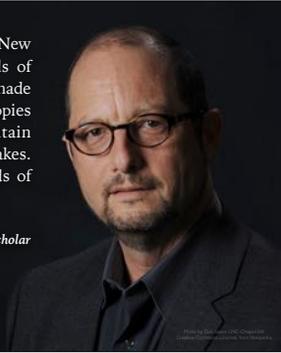
THE PRESERVATION OF THE NT TEXT
WHEN WAS THE WHOLE NT RECOGNIZED?

Summary:

At the end of the apostolic age, the early Church quickly gathered the New Testament together. Within a few decades from the time the last book of the bible was written, almost the whole NT has been circulated and was recognized as authoritative by the Apostolic Fathers. Within a few decades from the end of widespread persecution, church councils officially canonized the NT (not for the purpose of deciding what was Scripture, but to defend the Canon from claims that there were other scriptures).

We don't have the originals of the New Testament. What we have are thousands of copies of the New Testament that were made in most cases centuries later... These copies that were made centuries later contain numerous mistakes. Thousands of mistakes. Tens of thousands of mistakes. Hundreds of thousands of mistakes.

Bart Ehrman, New Testament Scholar



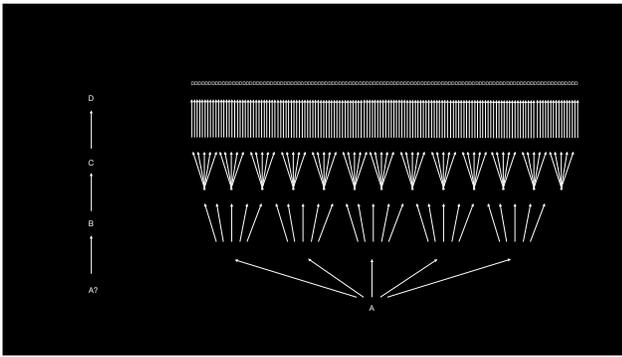
Did we get the Bible thru an epic game of telephone?

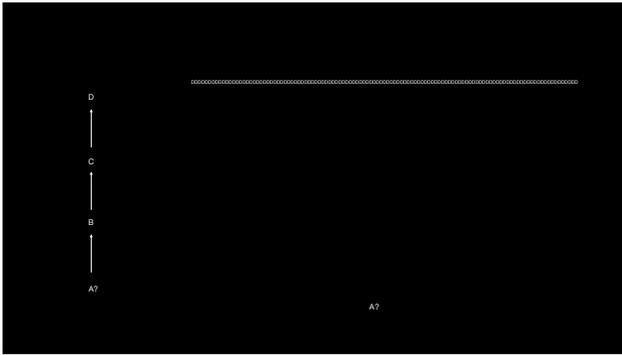


D
↑
C
↑
B
↑
A

D

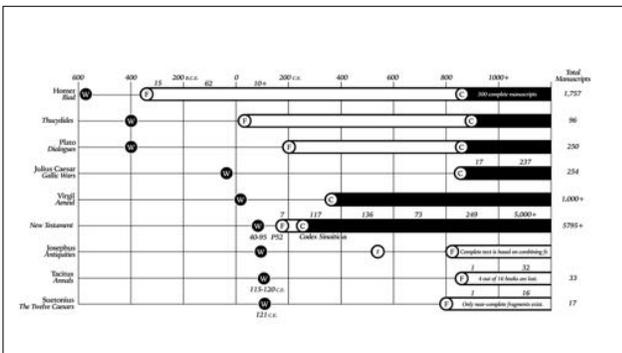
A?





THE PRESERVATION OF THE NT TEXT
DOES MY NT HAVE 400,000 ERRORS?

- There are so many variants because there are so many preserved documents. These 400,000 variants are spread out over 5,000 Greek manuscripts.
- Over 70% of variants are questions of spelling. This does not include variants from word order, forgotten words or repeated words and phrases.
- Less than 1% of variants change the meaning of the text.
- Within that 1%, even if the meaning is changed, 0% change any Christian doctrine.

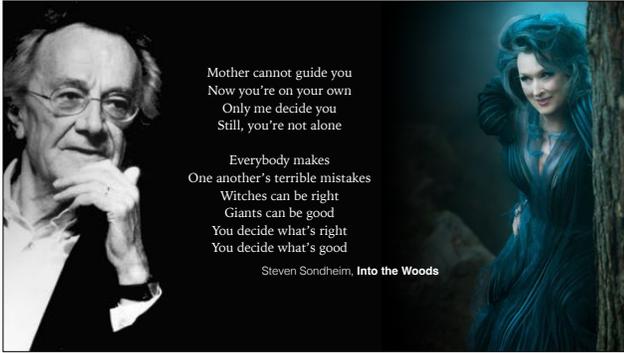






"I define postmodernism as incredulity towards meta narratives."

Jean-Francois Lyotard



Mother cannot guide you
Now you're on your own
Only me decide you
Still, you're not alone

Everybody makes
One another's terrible mistakes
Witches can be right
Giants can be good
You decide what's right
You decide what's good

Steven Sondheim, *Into the Woods*



ILLUMINE

Pain and Promise

CONVERSATIONS ON THE PROBLEMS OF SUFFERING AND EVIL
AND HOW THE BIBLICAL GOD IS THERE THROUGH IT ALL

most Friday evenings
6 TO 7:30



COUNTER CULTURE

IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT

A discussion of 1 Peter

an illumine social study series, Fridays, dinner at 5, discussion at 6:30

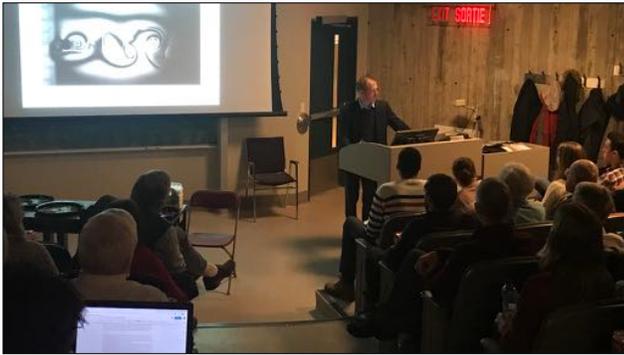
ILLUMINE
DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK

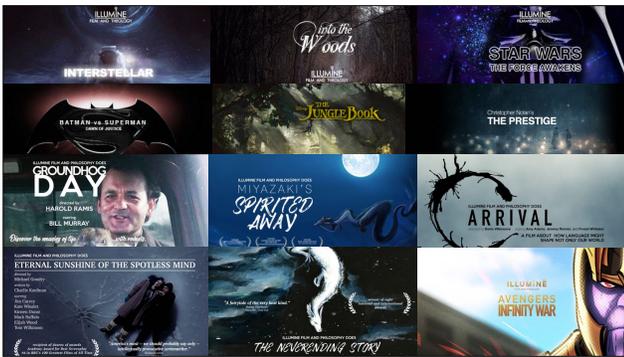


illumine's ministry philosophy:

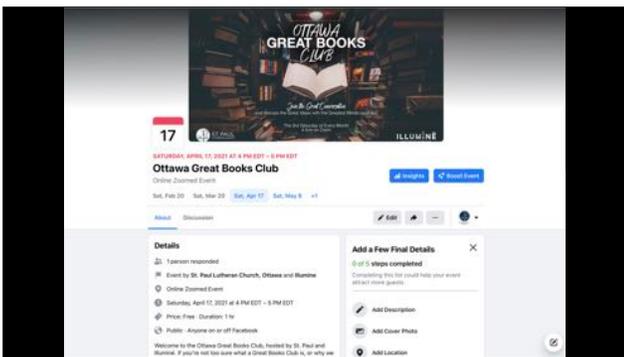
- Dive deep into God's Word
- Teach the Toolbox
- Engage culture and the arts













Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can
comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we
ourselves receive from God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

Q | I have the community. But how do I
actively comfort with God's Word?