How to be sure about what is right when uncertainty confronts us?

1 John 2: 24 - 29



We live in times of rapid change

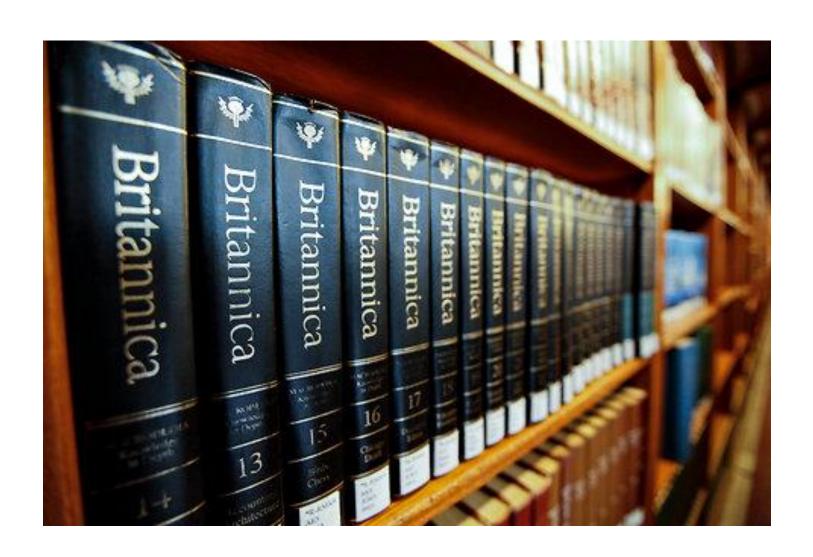


Evolution of communication over time

Internet Shopping



Victim of the Digital Age



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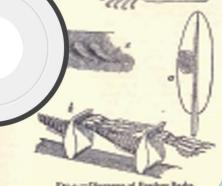
in the seweeth month; and one or two or Friday, called the day of El-Gomah the ass of public worships but it is not usual to abut business on that day encept during the time of p

Hindu and Building Francisco-In medica India opalar funivals are the Holl, which is hold in March ed hats for five-days, and the Dusahara, which secure is October. though in its origin Buddhism was a deliberate reaction first all orsensesial, it does not now refuse to absenve destinals. Buddhists in China, for reample, there days is the year are tally observed in honour of the Buddha, -the eighth day second mouth, when he lift his home; the sighth day of wh meeth, the analysesary of his birthday; and the the twelkh, when he attained to perfection and entered In Sizes the eighth and fillness in days of every month sed body, and use sheared as days his sex and True, the feetival of the close of the year, visiting are universal. The new year (January) is odefars; in February is unother holiday; in April shering in the rains senson; on the last day spir of calm of the new stor; in August in of the river, " whose progressions in

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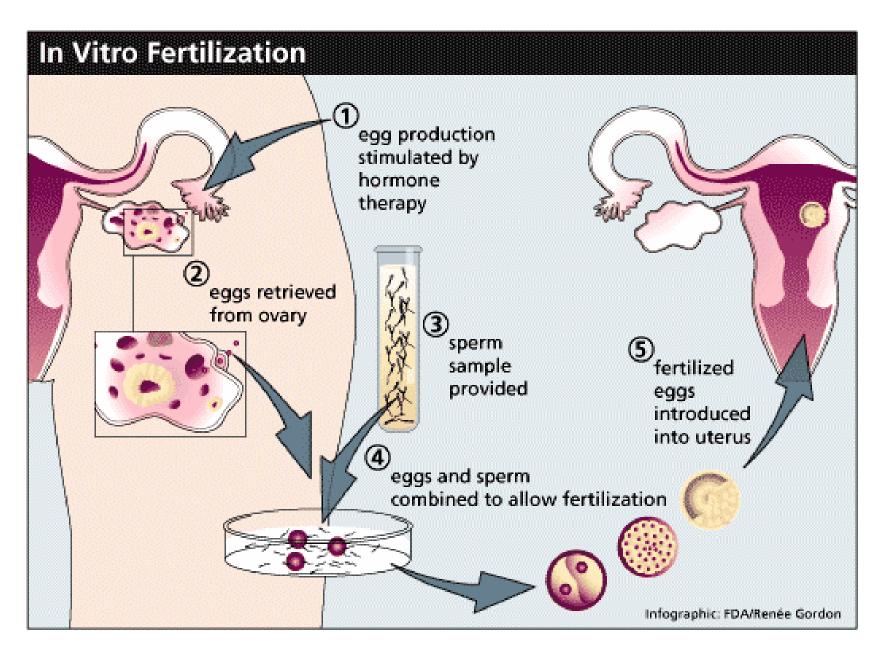
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We live in times of rapid change. And with it comes uncertainty.

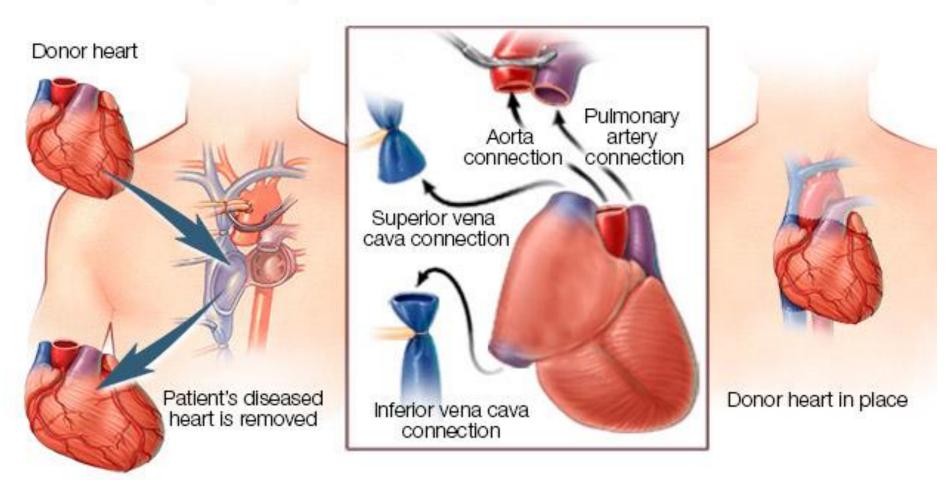


IVF



Transplant Surgery

Heart transplant procedure

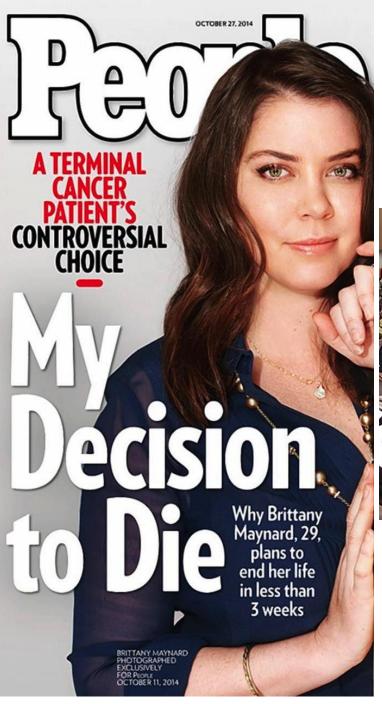


the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma. The practice is illegal in most countries.



Brittany Maynard





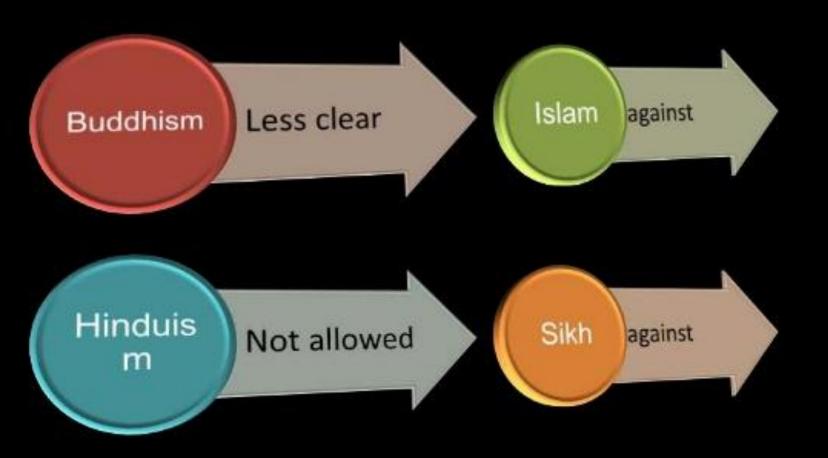
Oregon's

Death with Dignity Act

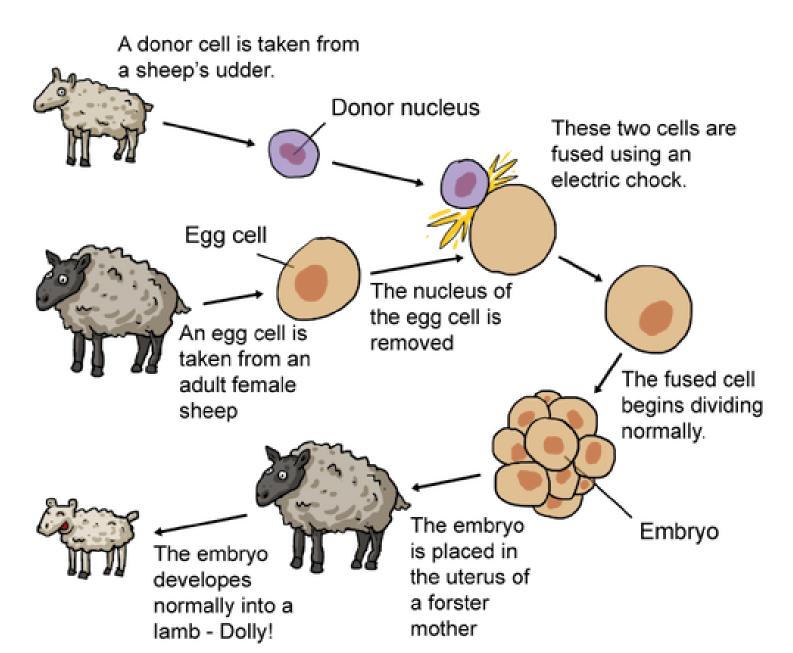




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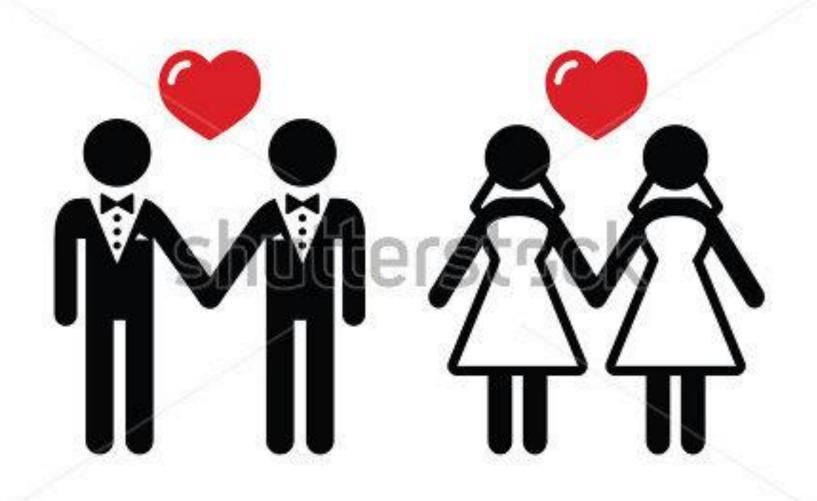
Cloning Sheep



Single Parenthood



Homosexual Marriage



Condition of the recipients of this letter

The Evangelist's First Letter

New Christian faith

False Teaching

John was getting old

What is right when uncertainty reigns?



1. Sticking with what Jesus has said

²⁴ As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you.

If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵ And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

1 John 2: 24 - 25

"When confusion reigns, stick with Jesus; Hang in there."

- How well do you know your bible?
- Do we have knowledge of it to fall back on,
 When uncertainty and confusion reigns and the way ahead seem unclear?



1. Sticking with what Jesus has said

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1 John 2: 24 - 25

"See that what you have heard from the beginning 'settle down' within you."

2. Being sensitive to the Spirit's activity in the community of believers

²⁶ I am writing these things to **you** about those who are trying to lead **you** astray.

²⁷ As for **you**, the anointing **you** received from him remains in **you**,

and you do not need anyone to teach you.

But as his anointing teaches **you** about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit

—just as it has taught **you**, remain in him.

1 John 2: 26 - 27

The word "you"

that John uses here is plural, not singular.

<u>Greek</u> <u>Hymas</u> (ὑμᾶς)

He's speaking about an anointing that has been received by <u>a group of people</u>

The 'anointing' that John speaks about here is the gift of the Holy Spirit that comes upon a <u>community of believers</u>

The heart of God cannot be fully understood outside of the community of believers

If you want to know what God is saying, after you have searched the scriptures, you speak to his people

1 John 2:27

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you.

Doesn't that mean that I can understand the heart of God separate from the church?

What does the rest of the Bible say about teaching and teachers?

 Matt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and <u>teaching</u> them to obey everything I have commanded you.

1Cor12:28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third <u>teachers</u>, etc etc

What does the rest of the Bible say about teaching and teachers?

• Eph 4:11-13 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and <u>teachers</u>, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you <u>teach</u> and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

What does the rest of the Bible say about teaching and teachers?

• 1 Tim 4:11 Command and teach these things.

- 2 Tim 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses
 Entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to <u>teach</u> others.
 - 2 Tim 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

The anointing that brought understanding and teaching to the Christians that John is writing to was a community anointing.

"Is this course of action or is this behavior, in accordance with what the Spirit is saying to others within the community of believers to which I am attached?"

3. Seek an intimate relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

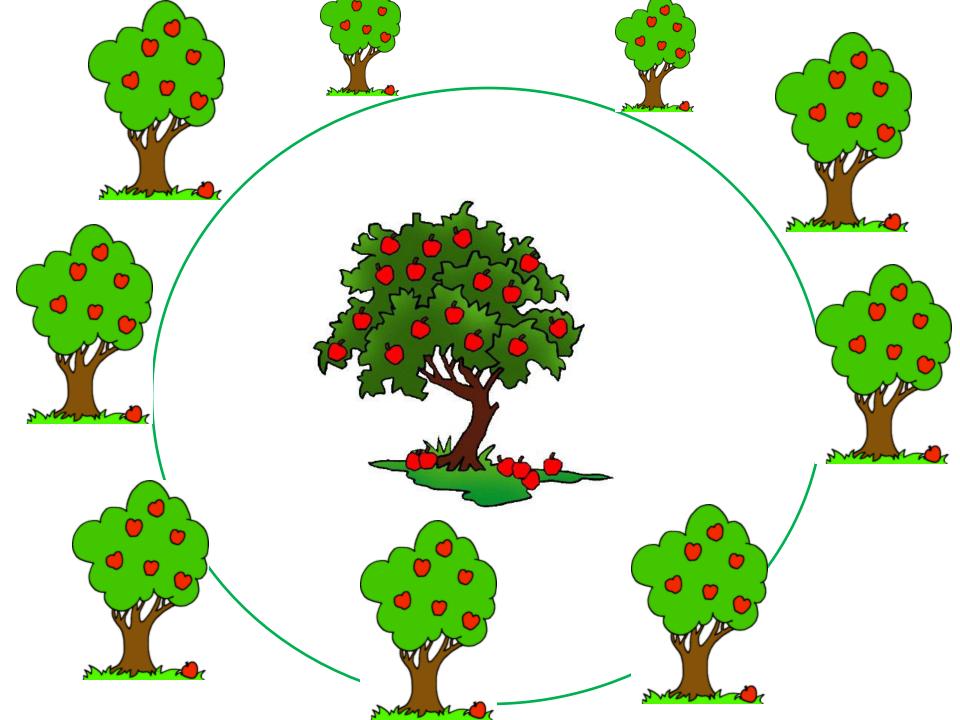
²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

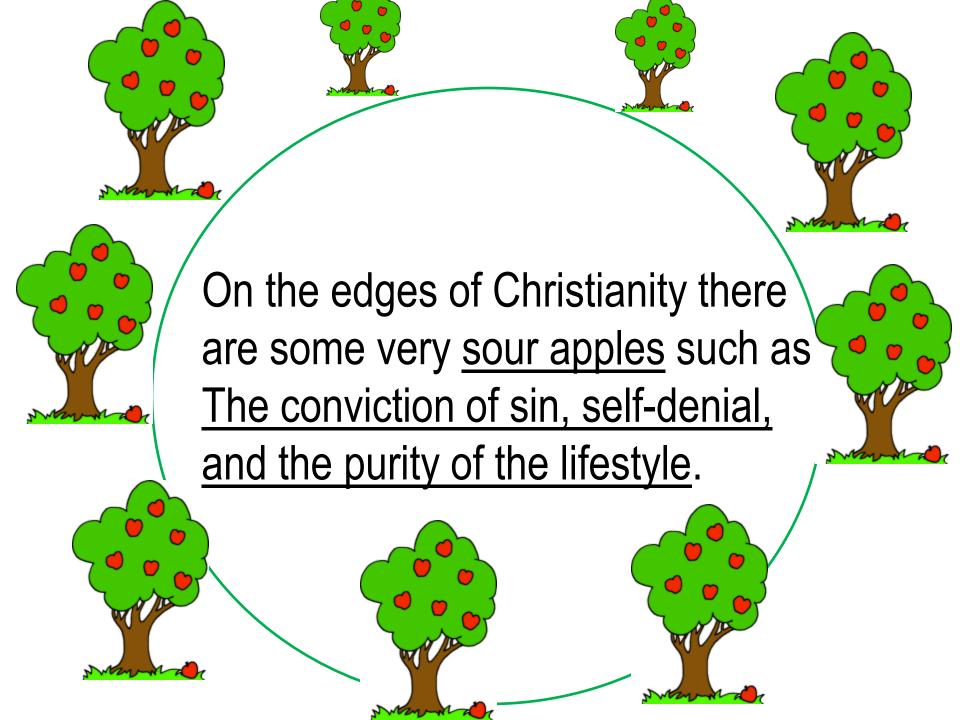
1 John 2:28

"If you want to know certainty when uncertainty reigns, then foster an intimate relationship with God."

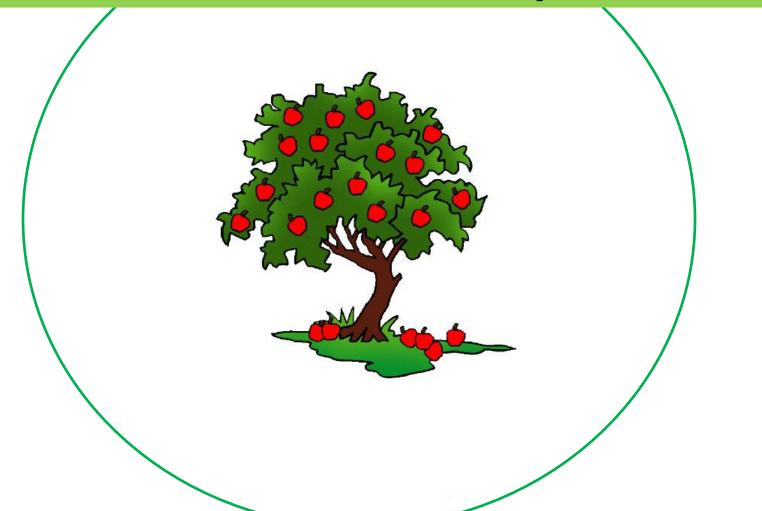
Apple Orchard







But in the middle of the orchard are the delicious fruits of knowing God intimately, And one of those fruits is certainty in the face of uncertainty.



4. Apply God's standard to Him, others and ourselves.

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

1 John 2:29

We need to tackle sin in our lives and eliminate it.

And we need to identify whether or not there are discrepancies in the lives and teaching of those who want to influence us

And so apply the test of God's standard to them. This will help us discern the truth in the face of doubt.

Conclusion

- 1. We need to stick with what Jesus has said from the very beginning, know the basics of the Christian faith;
- 2. We need to be sensitive to what the Spirit is saying among the community of believers;
- 3. We need to seek an intimate relationship with God- to continue with him as with a familiar old friend;and
- 4. We need to apply the test of the standard of God's righteousness to God, to ourselves and to those who are trying to influence us.

