

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



[illegible]

Fig. 2.—Diagram of Fracture Bed.

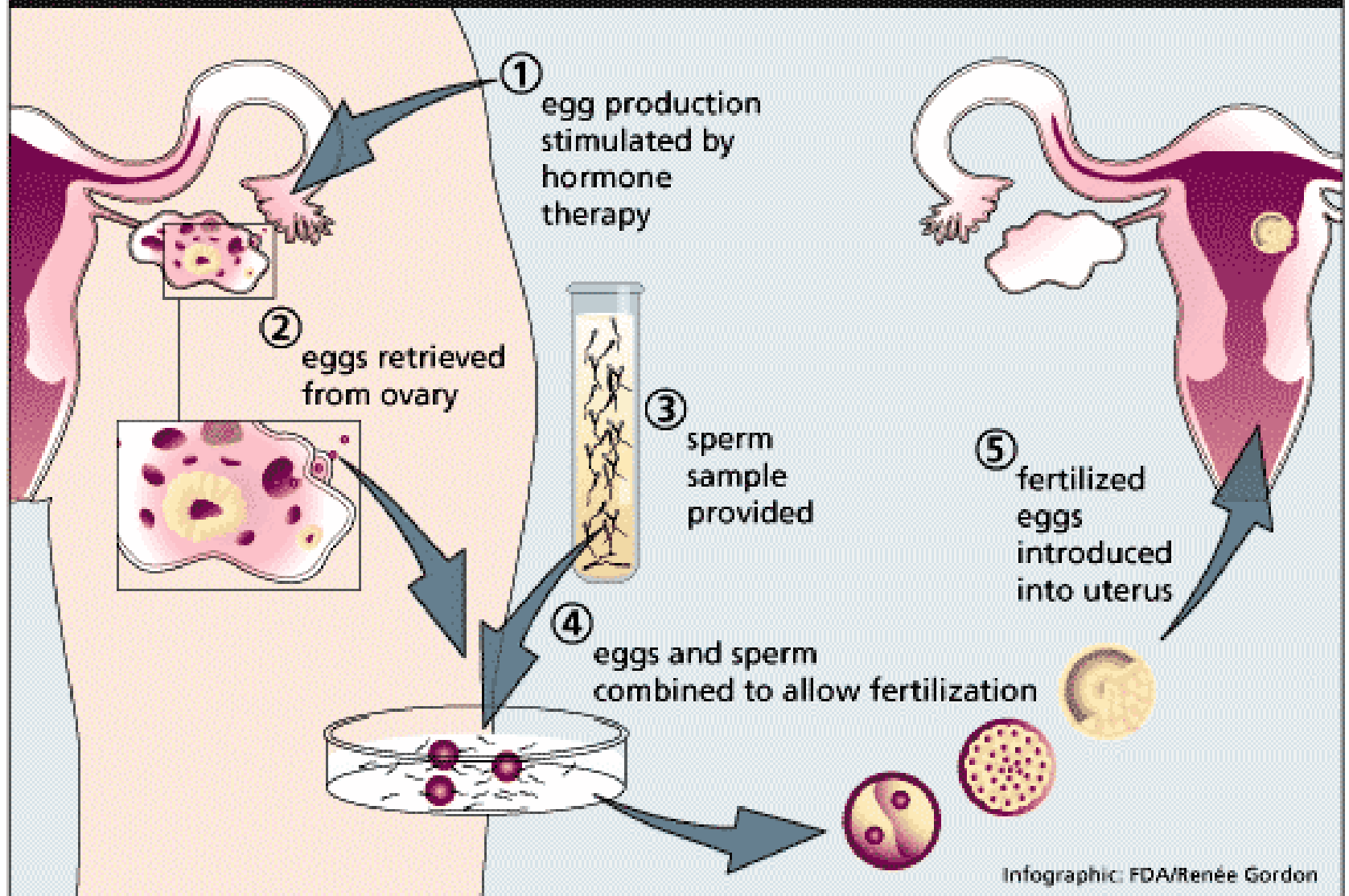
- a. Outline of forehead showing
 the relation of the barbs and
 barbel to the dorsal fin
 of skull.
 b. Section anterior of the barbel
 showing in a highly magnified
 view.
 c. Two barbel of the posterior
 fin—seen only in some
 sections in d.
 d. A barbel of d.
 e. Section across
 anterior bar
 symmetrical
 f. A portion of
 anterior
 another
 the
 bar

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



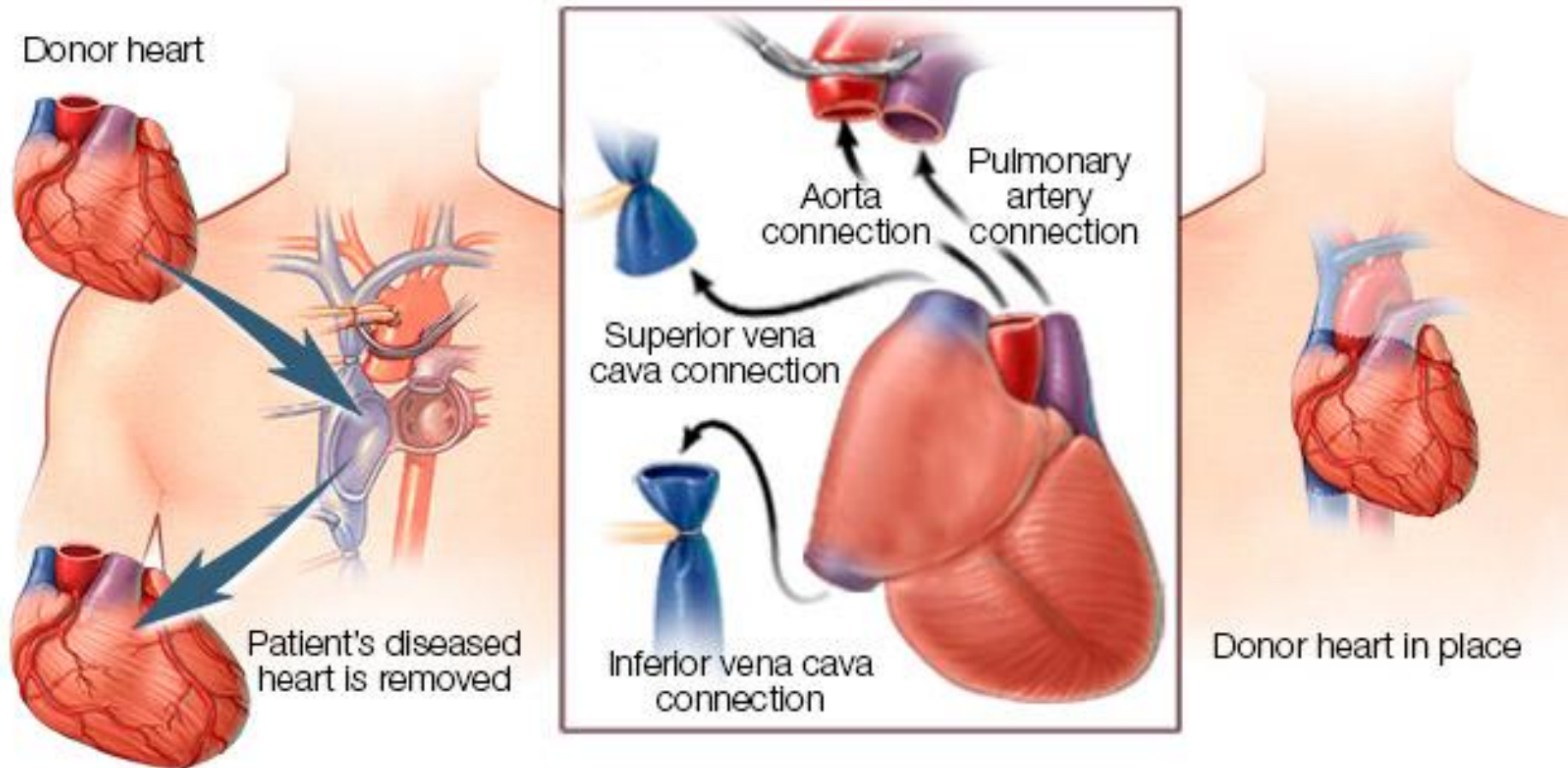
IVF

In Vitro Fertilization



Transplant Surgery

Heart transplant procedure



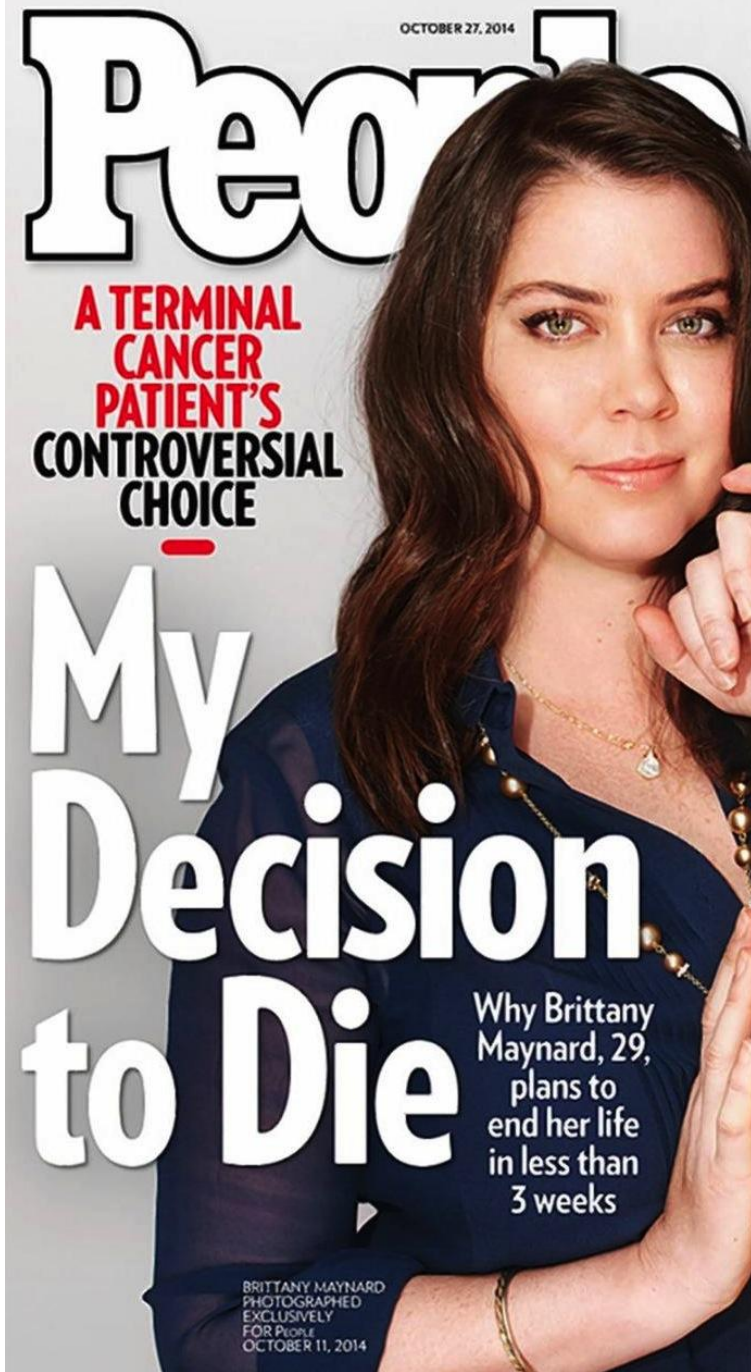
the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma. The practice is illegal in most countries.

EUTHANASIA



Brittany Maynard

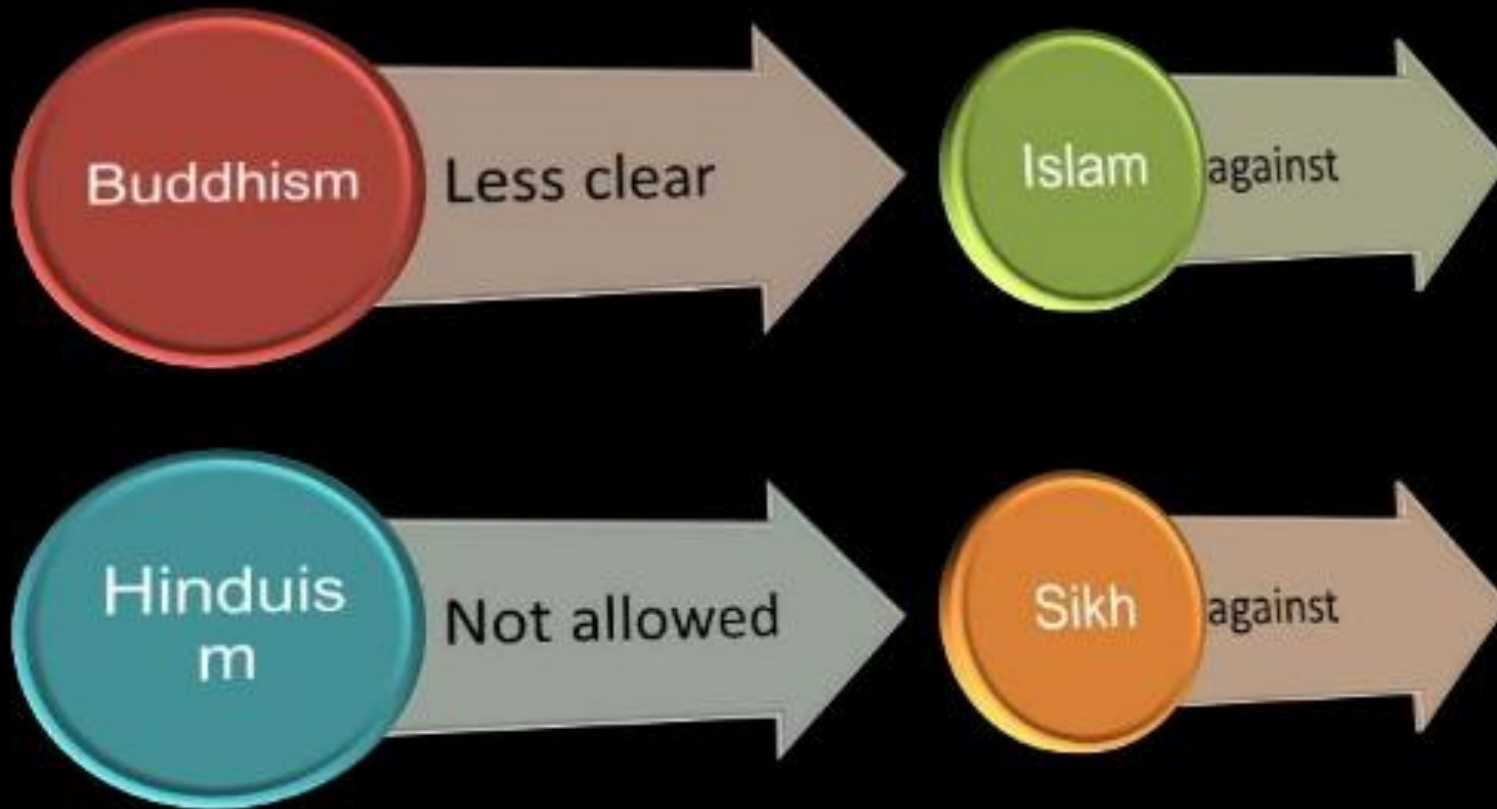




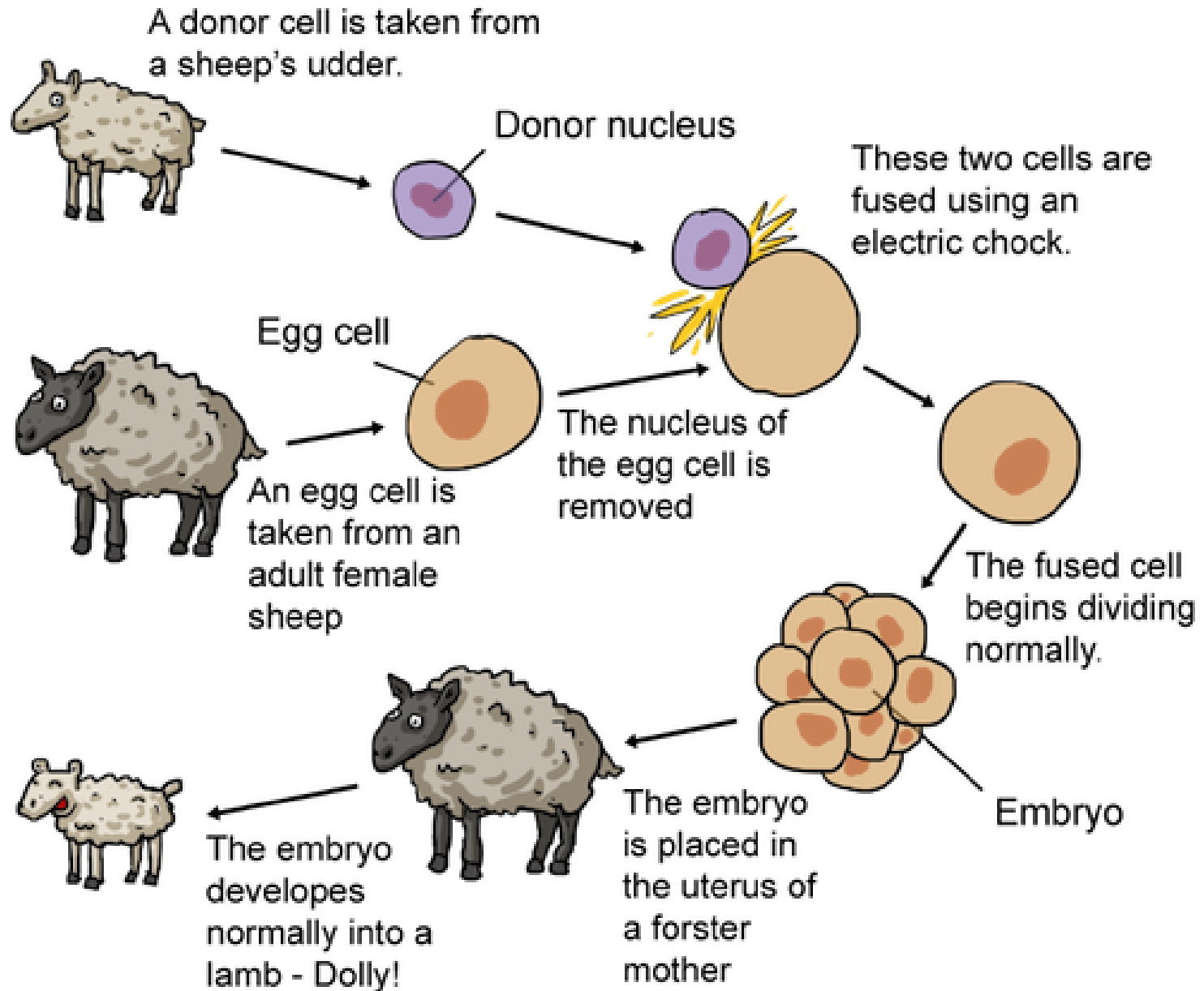
Oregon's Death with Dignity Act



RELIGION AND EUTHANASIA



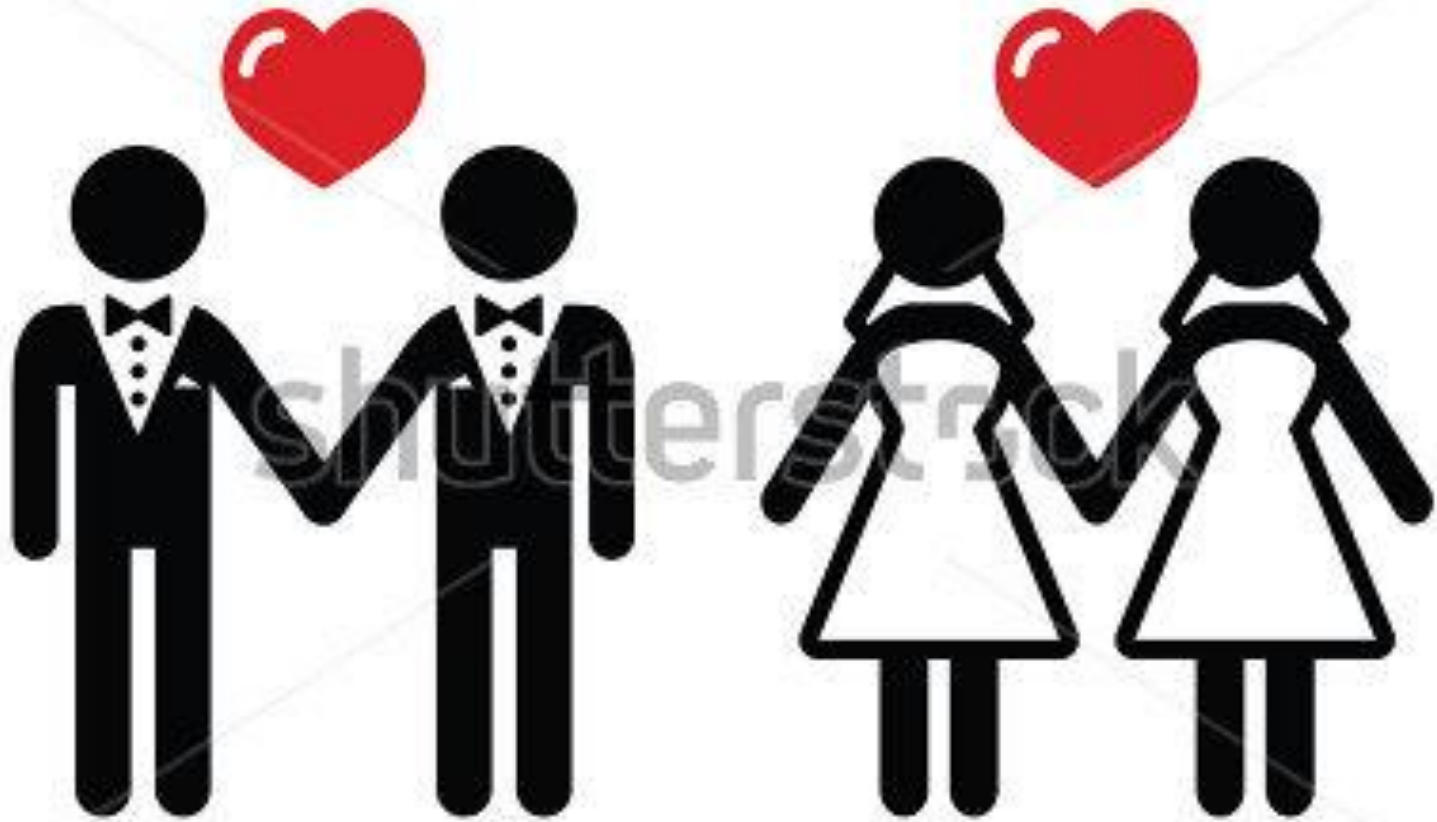
Cloning Sheep



Single Parenthood

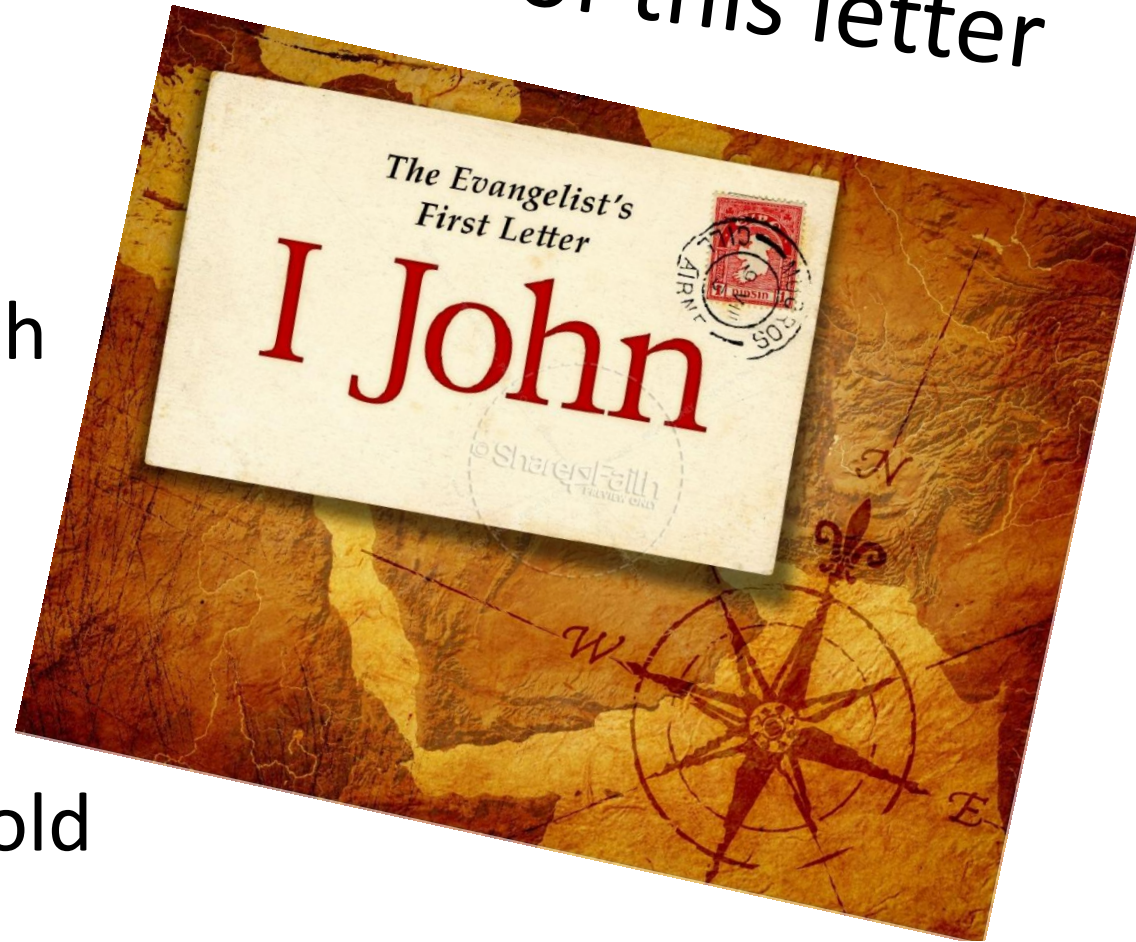


Homosexual Marriage



Condition of the recipients of this 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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²⁵ And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

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.

Greek
Hymas (ὑμᾶς)

He's speaking about an anointing that has been received by **a group of people**

The 'anointing' that John speaks about here is the gift of the Holy Spirit that comes upon a **community of believers**

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 teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

1Cor12:28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, 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 teachers, 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 teach 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 teach 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

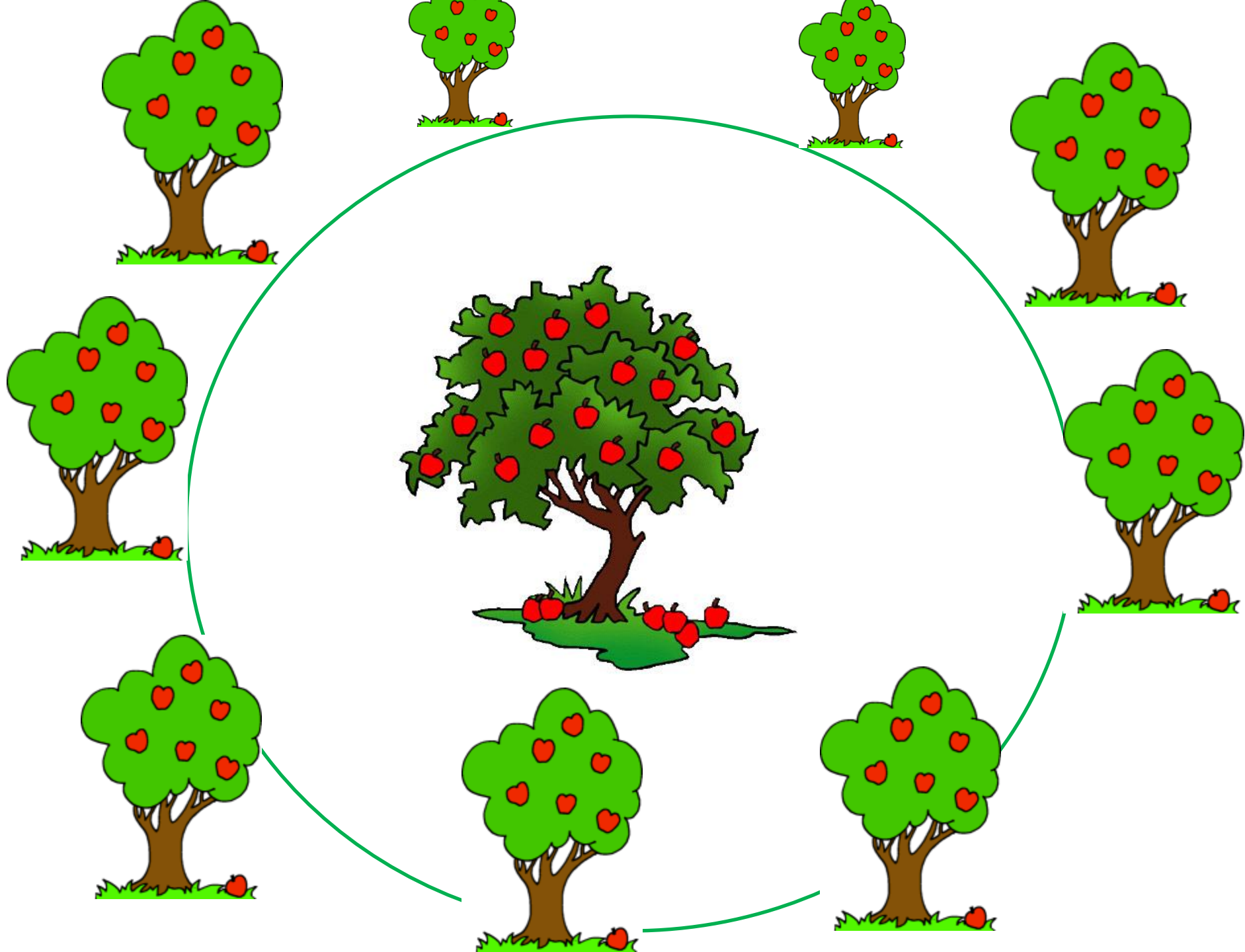
²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

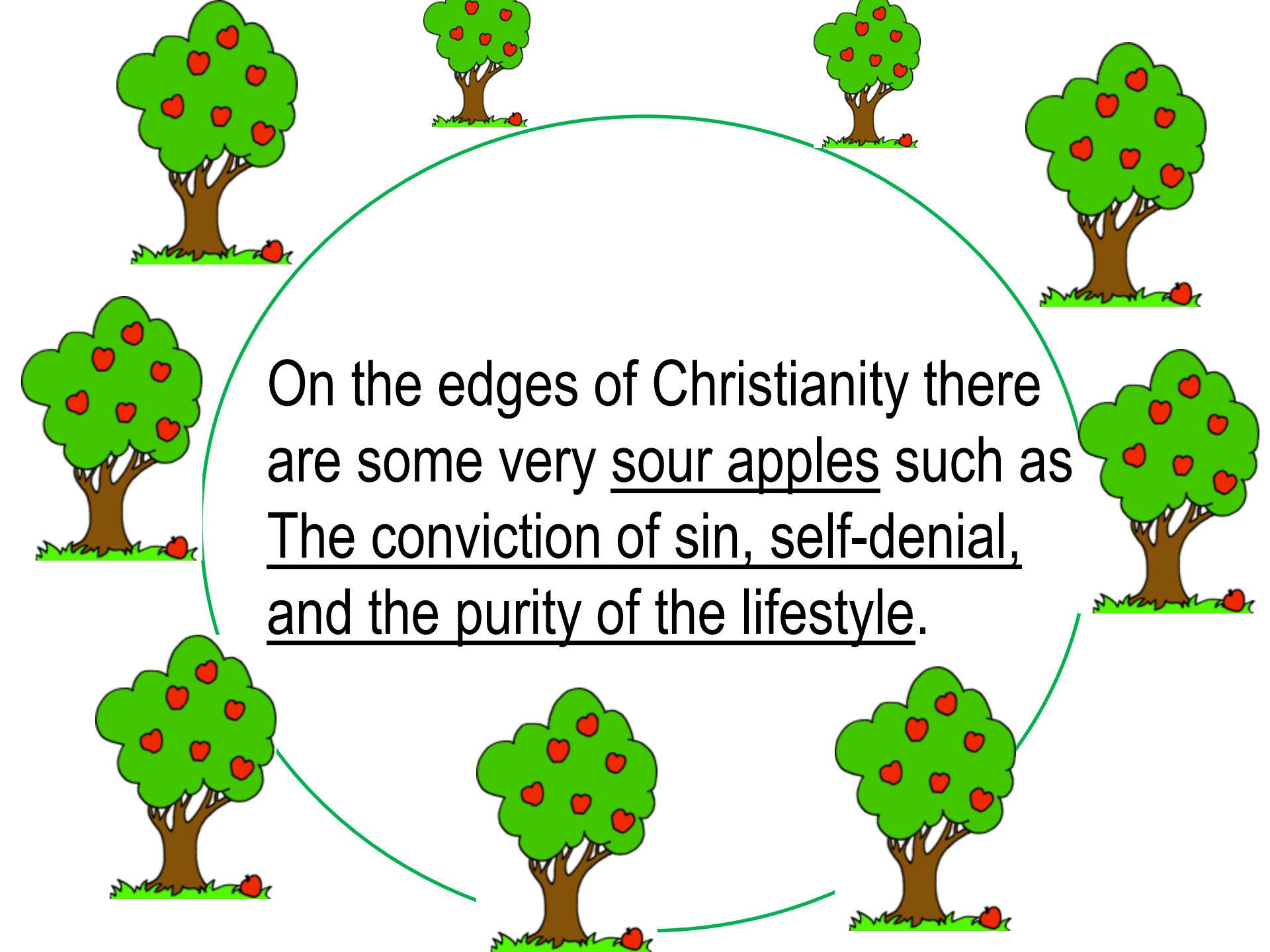
1 John 2 : 28

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

Apple Orchard

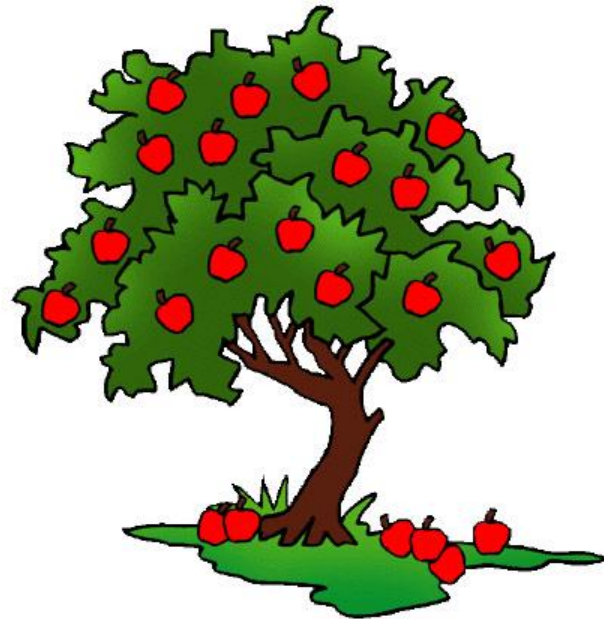






On the edges of Christianity there
are some very sour apples such as
The conviction of sin, self-denial,
and the purity of the lifestyle.

**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.

God bless