

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . So the Word became human, & made his home among us.

John 1:1,11

The Point: The “*Word*”:

- is not a concept/philosophy
- is not a force/energy field

The Word is God clothed in flesh: Jesus Christ!

Truth: The “Word” (Jesus) reveals the heart of God.
... and God’s Heart is **Jealous**

I am the Lord your God, . . . You shall have no other gods before me . . . For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.

Exodus 20:1-5

Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

Exodus 34:14

Note: God is jealous about what belongs to Him ... and everything belongs to Him – including you!

- there is not a person on this planet that has not been created by God and belongs to Him.

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
The world, and all who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1

Note: God is jealous about what belongs to Him ... and everything belongs to Him – including you!

- there is not a person on this planet that has not been created by God and belongs to Him.
- When something that belongs to God is lost or taken, He goes to ridiculous lengths to get it back ... and only one part of His Creation has been lost.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

Truth: The Word (Jesus) reveals the heart of God.
... and God's Heart is **Generous**

*For God loved the world so much that he gave his
one and only Son, so that everyone who believes
in him will not perish, but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

Some truths about God's generous heart:

1. His generosity is **Irrational** - it makes no sense.

God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son . . .

Some truths about God's generous heart:

1. His generosity is ***Irrational*** - it makes no sense.
2. His generosity is ***Inappropriate***.
 - God is willing to pay too much for what He wants.

Most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:7-8

Some truths about God's generous heart:

1. His generosity is ***Irrational*** - it makes no sense.
2. His generosity is ***Inappropriate***.
 - God is willing to pay too much for what He wants.
 - God is willing to go too far to retrieve what He's lost.

*He came to his own people and even they rejected him.
But to all who did believe and accepted him – to them he
gave them the right to become children of God – people
reborn with a spiritual birth that comes from God.*

John 1:11-13

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"

Matthew 9:9-13

¹²When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor – sick people do.” ¹³Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

The Point: God spends a lot of His time hanging out with “*lost people*”.

... because they’re lost!

Two Thoughts to Consider:

1. I was lost, but God found me!

- this is something that I never want to forget or get over.

¹⁵Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

Paul – 1 Timothy 1

Two Thoughts to Consider:

1. I was lost, but God found me!
 - this is something I never want to forget or get over.
2. Because of my personal experience, people who are spiritually lost really disturb me ... and I'm compelled to help them.

¹⁹I am a servant to all people to bring many to Christ . . .

²²Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.

Paul - 1 Corinthians 9

A wooden manger filled with straw, set against a dark background. The manger is made of light-colored wood and is filled with dry, yellowish-brown straw. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a stable or a field at night.

*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved
into the neighborhood!*

John 1:14 (The Message)