



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

SERMON | 10 SEP 2023

CHOOSE YOUR LOVE

1 John 2:12-17

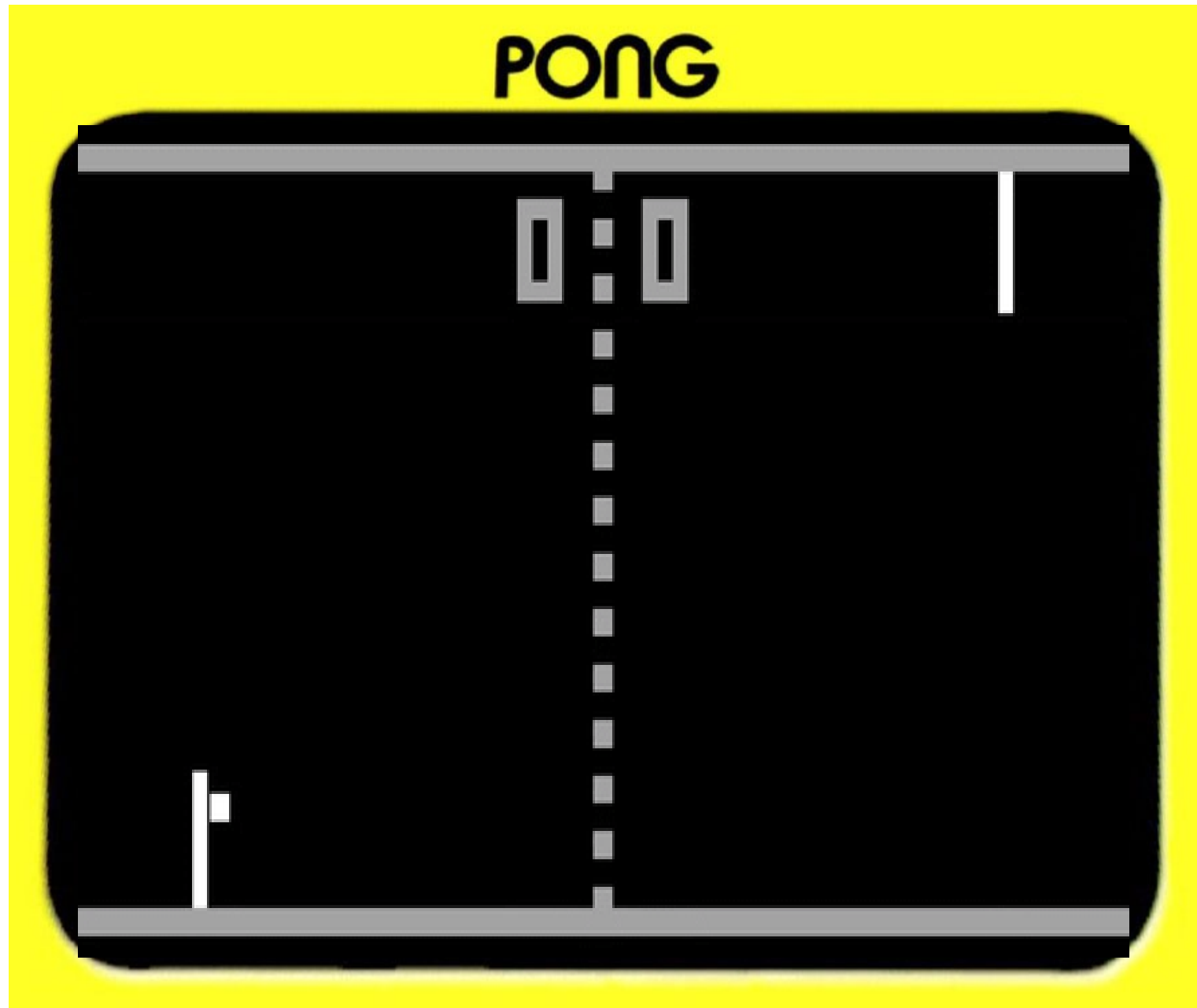
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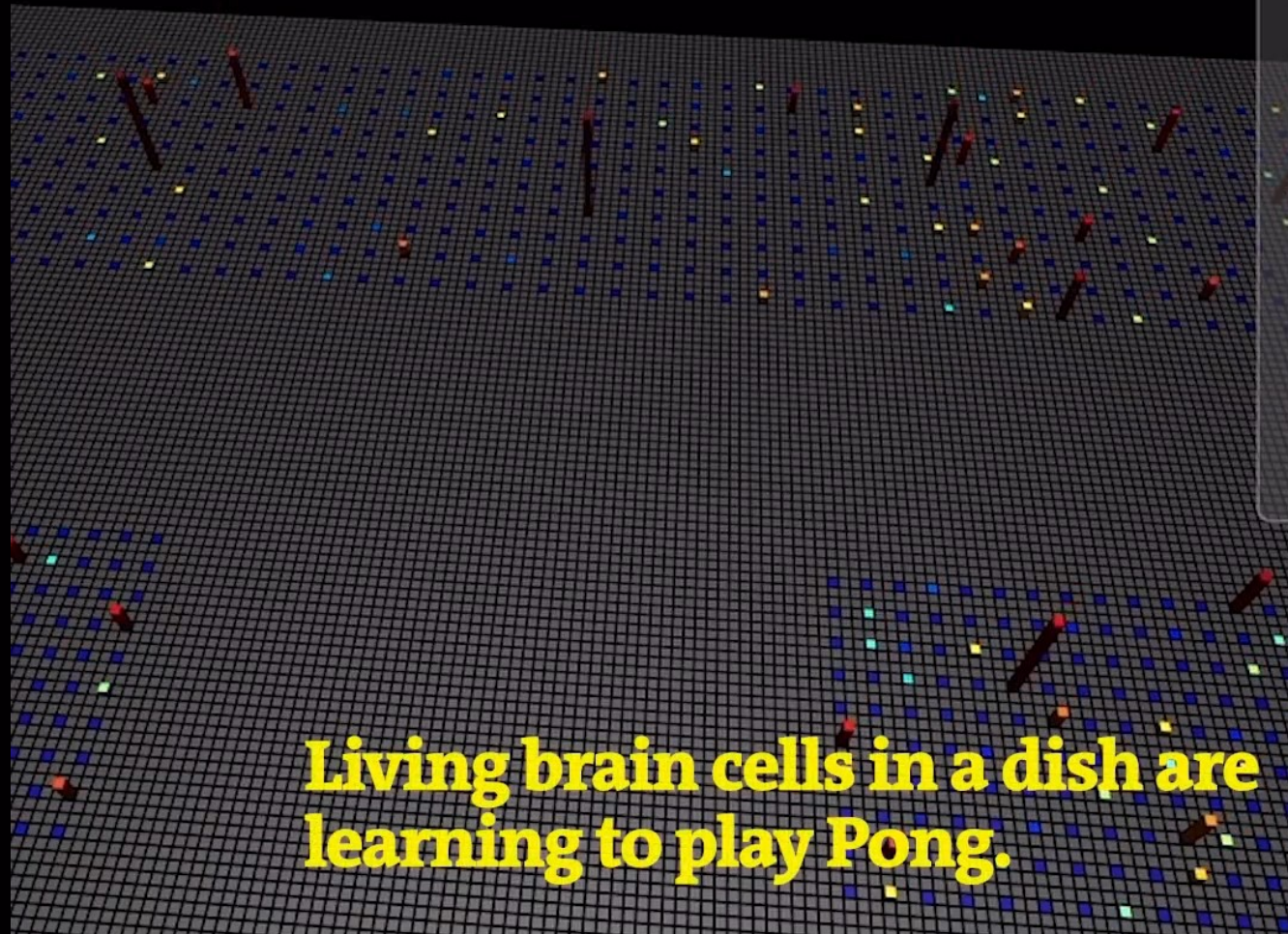
Choose Your Love

1 John 2: 15-17



ATARI





Living brain cells in a dish are learning to play Pong.

BBC Sign in Home News Sport Reel Worklife

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Health

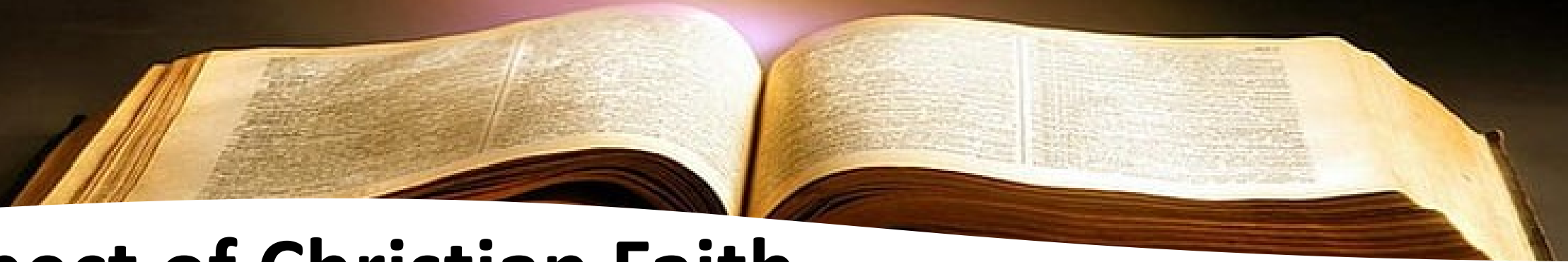
Scientists grow whole model of human embryo, without sperm or egg

21 hours ago · Comments

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

A stem-cell derived human embryo model showing blue cells (embryo), yellow cells (yolk sac) and pink cells (placenta).

Overview of 1 JOHN



Aspect of Christian Faith

- **Truth** - Jesus is both God and man (1:1-4)
- **Righteousness** - does what is right (2:28 - 29)
- **Love** - giving, dying for, forgiving, blessing (3:11 - 4:21)
- **Life** - whoever believes in Jesus (5)

The Author





The Author

- John & Jesus (talked to, walked with, witnessed to miracles, heard, beside at Calvary, met after resurrection, at the ascension) - 1 John 1 : 1- 4
- A complete package as an eye-witness on the love & power of God
- Simple and sharp contrast writing – light & darkness, life & death, love & hate etc..

we Love
BECAUSE
HE
first
LOVED US
1 John 4:19

An Epistle of Love

- “Love” is mentioned more than 20 times, depending on the English translation version (21x in 1 John 4 NIV)
- Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

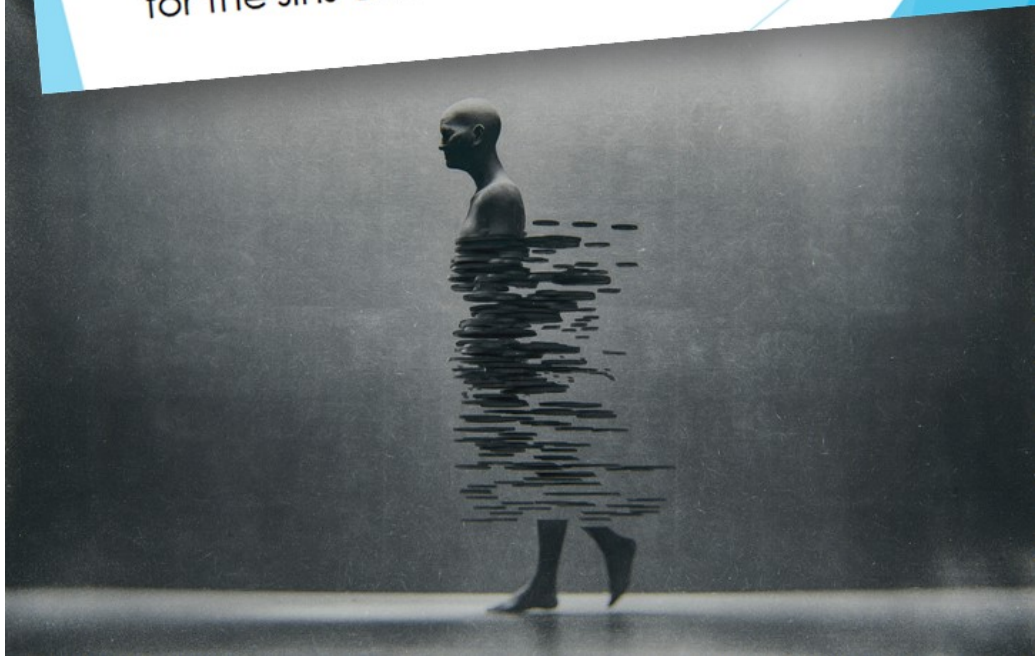
GNOSTICISM

- Derived from the Greek word "**gnosis**", meaning knowledge.
- Gnostics claimed to have an **elevated knowledge** about spiritual matters that surpassed Scripture itself.
- **Dualistic worldview**: material world is evil, spiritual is good.
- **False belief** that Jesus could not have come to earth as a physical man to die for the sins of humanity.

Last week

Gnosticism

- Spirit (good) and; matter or carnal things (bad) are separate entities
- You are not a body with soul, instead you are an eternal soul with a temporary body
 - Whatever happens to matter (physical) has no impact on spirit (eternity)
 - It promotes unrestrained pursuit of worldly pleasures



The "sandwiched" message

1 John 1:5b - 6

God is light,

and there is no darkness in Him at all.

So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness;

we are not practicing the truth.

1 John 2:15-17

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God

1 John 2 : 15 - 17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**Love of
(things of)
the World**


**Lust and
Pride**

**Do the will
of God**

Reading at the surface..



• 1 Don't, 3 Avoidance and 2 Rewards

- Don't - Love the world 
- Avoid #1 - Earthly desires
- Avoid #2 - Indecency
- Avoid #3 - Proud or/of Success
- Reward #1 - Love of God
- Reward #2 - Eternal Life



• Tick box (or Check box) Christian

The World

- **Κόσμος (kosmos)**

- For God so loved the *world*, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

- **Application in the Bible**

- the world, the universe
- the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family
- the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God

To love and not to love

Things of the world - thoughts, values, actions, attitudes, behaviours, possessions, etc.

Things that appeals to our sinful nature/flesh – drunkenness, addiction, gluttony, sexual perversion, etc.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world..
(Romans 12:2a)

Worldliness

Associated behaviours



The quality of being practical and having a lot of experience of life
(Cambridge Dictionary)

- What the Gnostic were believing in
- Reason to reject or depending on God



Any mindset and behavior of the world that is in competition with God or is against God – the spirit of Anti Christ (..the whole world is under the control of the evil one, 1 John 5:19b)



Worldliness pushes out the Love for the Father

Lust of the flesh

Lust of the eyes

Pride of Life

What is lust?

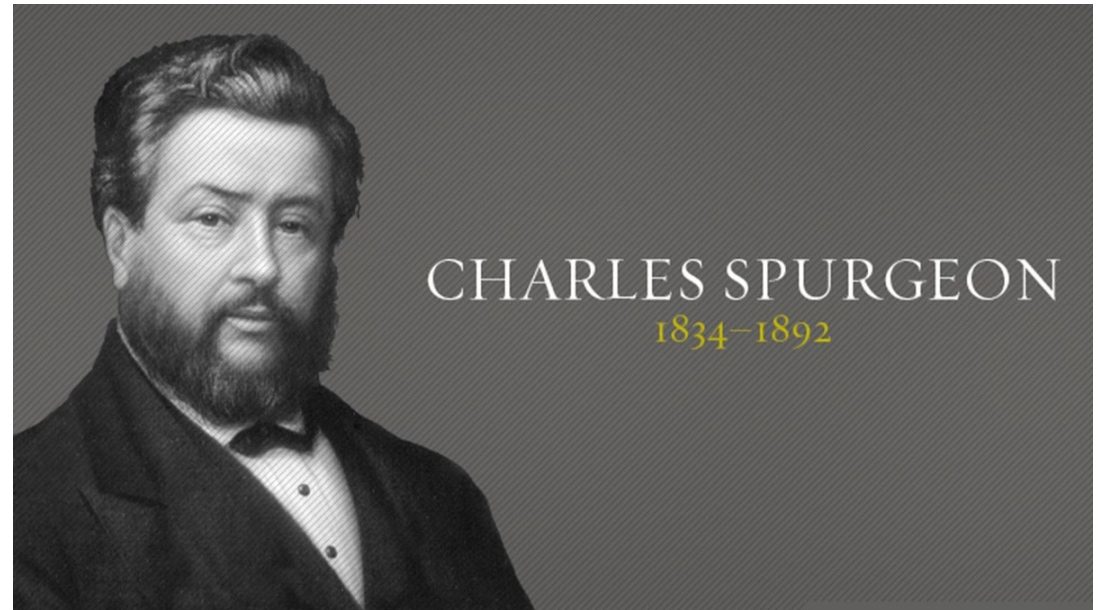
- ἐπιθυμία (epithumia) - desire, craving, longing
- Occurred more than 30 times in the NT, almost always indicates desire leading to sin

私欲

Sīyù

Selfish Desire

"Our lusts are cords. Fiery trials are sent to burn and consume them. Who fears the flame which will bring him liberty from bonds intolerable?" - C.H. Spurgeon



..since the beginning of creation

Earthly desires and temptations are inseparable

- **Garden of Eden** – Eve tempted by the serpent.
(Genesis 3:6)
 - When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it

Earthly desires and temptations are inseparable

- **Temptation of Christ** (Luke 4:3-13)

The devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”..

The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, “I will give You all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be Yours.”..

The devil led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If You are the Son of God,” he said, “throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: “ ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully; they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’ ””

Lust of the flesh

Desire of sin which resulted in physical pleasures through ungodly behaviour, sinful activities or unlawful acts

- Desires of our earthly nature
- A desire that dishonour its object and dishonour God (*John Piper*)
- Works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)

"Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul"(1 Peter 2:11)

Lust of the eyes

The weapons used by the world to seduce believers and love it

- Window to our soul, gateway to our heart
- Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied. (Prov 27: 20)
- ..or if my heart has lusted for what my eyes have seen.. (Job 31:7b)

It appeals to our affections subsequently leads to covetousness

- Achan - saw and coveted (Joshua 7:20-21)
- King David - saw, lied, acted and committed murder (2 Samuel 11)
- Look - lust – sinful heart (Matt 5:27-29)



iPhone 6: Man 'asking for latest Apple smartphone as dowry for sister'

Brother clearly really into HD Retina displays

Chris...

Mail Online



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Chinese man offers to 'rent' girlfriend to other people for just £1 an hour in order to raise money to buy the new iPhone 6

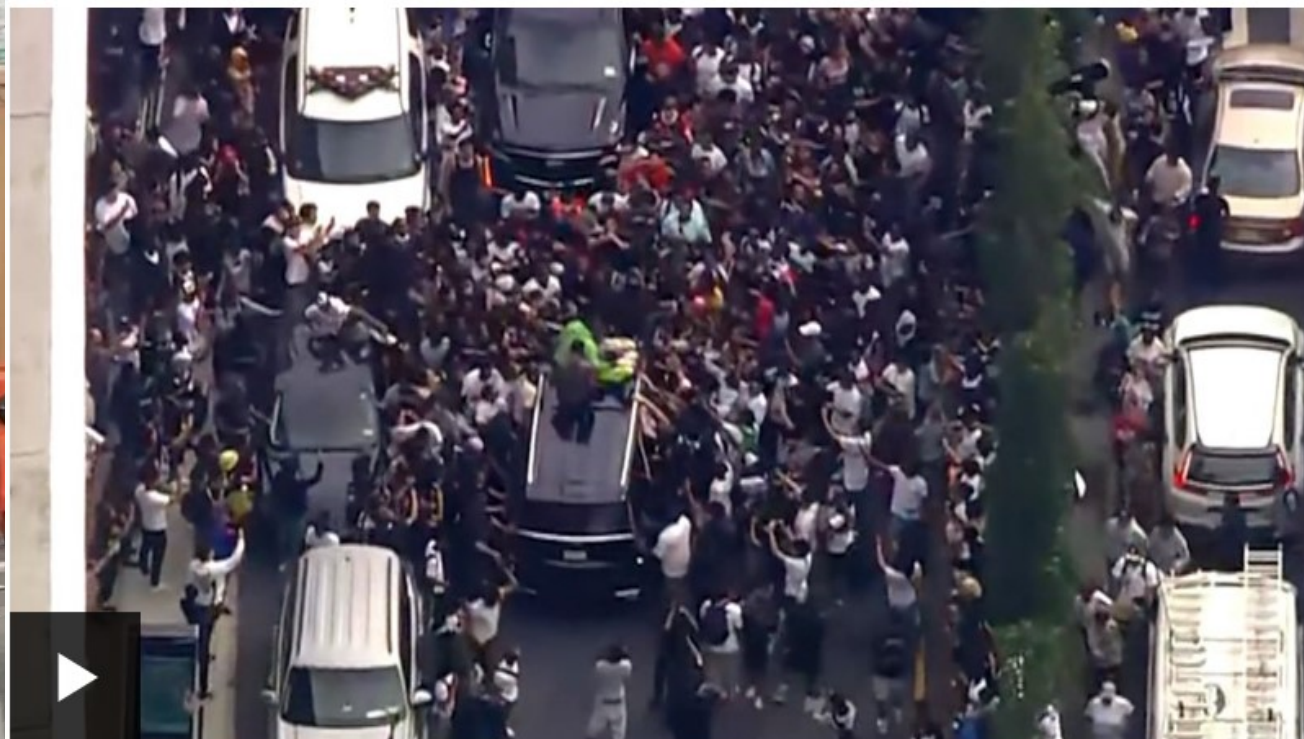
By JOHN HALL FOR MAILONLINE

UPDATED: 16:48 BST, 19 September 2014



Kai Cenat: Police charge Twitch streamer after PS5 giveaway mayhem

🕒 6 August



▶ Watch: Chaos breaks out at NYC giveaway event

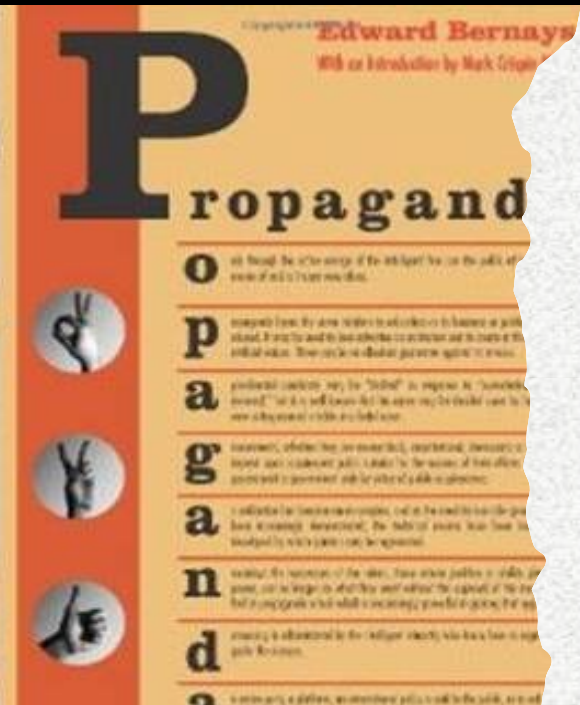
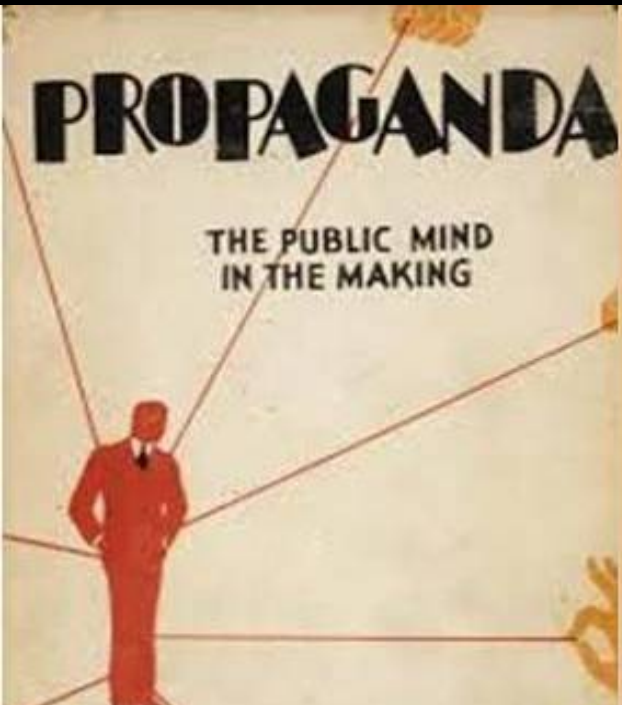


EDWARD BERNAYS

THE FATHER OF PUBLIC RELATIONS



Man's thoughts
and actions are
compensatory
substitutes for
desires which
he has been
obliged to
suppress .



Lust vs Love

**Self-
Centered**

Achieving own's desires

- Vicious
- Entitlement
- Covetous
- Manipulative

**God-
Focused**

Doing God's Will

- Compassion
- Serving
- Generosity
- Self sacrifice

Pride of Life

- Success which denied the involvement of God
- Vainglory. Excessive elation or pride over one's abilities, achievements.
- Ostentation. Pretentious, conspicuous show as of importance, display intend to impress others.



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CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE

The Path
to Spiritual Growth

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- “We really must understand that the lust for affluence in contemporary society is psychotic. It is psychotic because it has completely lost touch with reality. We crave things we neither need nor enjoy. 'We buy things we do not want to impress people we do not like.' ...It is time to awaken to the fact that conformity to a sick society is to be sick.”
- Covetousness we call ambition. Hoarding we call prudence. Greed we call industry.

Teacher suicide exposes parent bullying in S Korea





Protests in Seoul



Will of God

(do what God wants MSG)

- All (world & lust) will fade away as the world
 - cannot give us what we need
 - cannot give us what it promises
 - cannot give us what will last
- Love based on will and not emotion (*agape Gk*)



**pulling
(tension)**

**Bending
(compression)**

**Twisting
(shearing)**

**Drop
(impact)**

4 ways to break a chalk



Romans 13:14

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.



Instead of using “I am weak” as an excuse to walk in the flesh, try using “I am saved” as a reason to walk by the Spirit.

**Walk
in the
Spirit** }

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **Galatians 5:16**