

## Spiritual Lens 1: Contemporary Gnosticism (September 22nd)

(From Mark Sayers, *Disappearing Church*, page 65)

<b>View of Ancient Gnosticism</b>	<b>View of Contemporary Gnosticism</b>	<b>The Gospel</b>
The world is inferior.	Your world is inferior.	Creation is good, although broken by the Fall. Christ has won the victory, and creation now groans for the day when heaven and earth will be reunited.
Matter is the problem.	The mundane is the problem.	Sin and rebellion against God and His created order is the problem
Escape from your body to perfect-spirit.	Turn your body into a perfect-looking body.	Jesus' gift of grace frees us from sin and death.
Look inward to find truth and the god within.	Look inward to find the real you.	God's revelation opens our eyes to God and the true nature of things.
Escape the world to the perfect spiritual place.	Escape the mundane to the amazing life.	Joy and meaning are found in worshipping and serving God.
Move toward perfection through finding hidden spiritual knowledge.	Move toward the perfect life through tips, tweaks, hacks, and the secrets of success. Self-create!	Pursue Christlikeness

<b>View of Ancient Gnosticism</b>	<b>View of Contemporary Gnosticism</b>	<b>The Gospel</b>
You are a seeker, pursuing spiritual truths and hidden knowledge.	You are a seeker, pursuing fulfillment through incredible experiences and pleasure.	You are a recipient of God's grace, pursued and loved by God.
Move past the inferior god to find the real God beyond.	Move past organized religion and find spirituality.	God chooses to partner with us in His mission in the world through the church. The church is a foretaste of the coming kingdom. Build up the church.
Move toward fulfillment by breaking past the barriers left by the inferior god.	Move toward fulfillment by breaking past the barriers set by tradition, religion, and others.	Move toward spiritual maturity through battling against the flesh. Gain wisdom.
You are a god.	It's all about you.	It's all about God.