

*I now want to turn to a troubling but all too common Christian response to rage and that is nostalgia. I'm trying here to answer the question why are so many American Christians attracted to nostalgia today.*

*I also hear the voice of my 23 year old daughter who responds to any declaration I make and "Dad what is wrong with that?". So to the people who think nostalgia is a good thing, I'm trying to address you if you're here today.*

*I'm trying to argue that nostalgia is not a Christian virtue. That more often than not nostalgia masks darker impulses. While explicitly marketing certain forms of virtue that delude and misdirect Christian theology while purporting to restore some lost theology or practice.*

*Nostalgia is a misbegotten form of memory. It is the pursuit of that which never was in the pursuit of addressing some perceived current malady.*

*Nostalgia needs a narrative of failure and loss to be attractive and to be intellectually or psychologically effective. All nostalgic narrative have a golden era.*

*Something from the past has disappeared or it's currently existentially threatened, in order to make the appeal to restoring what has been lost persuasive.*

*Ironically, what is lost often proved to be imaginary and not real. Nevertheless memory manufactured or misbegotten can be as powerful as memory of real events and we need to be able to separate the two. Traditional Christianity is a nostalgic construct.*