

God Loves You

- *John 3:16-17*

- **As you look throughout history & time, and as you comb through the pages of God's Word, what you find is a Holy God seeking to show His love to a lost & dying world.**
- **Yet as much as God loves us & desires to show His love to us, far too many of us wonder if His love for us is real.**
 - We are concerned that we have run from Him too much for Him to love us.
 - We believe that our sin is too great for His love to possibly reach us.
 - We try to live good enough to earn God's love, and we always come up short.
- **We teach our children verses in the Bible & these fun little songs that talk about the love of God like, "Jesus Loves Me", yet do we really believe those words?**
 - When tragedy strikes our lives, we question God's love.
 - When things don't work out like we feel they should have we chalk it up to a lack of God's love & care for us.
 - When our prayers aren't answered in the way we prayed or at least in a timely fashion, we wonder where God's love is.
 - And yet the answer in all those scenarios as well as the answer in every situation in your life is God's love is ALWAYS present.
- **No scripture words this any more clearly & simply than the words found in John 3.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **John Phillips said this, "The creative work of God is summed up in Genesis 1("And God said"). The legislative work of God is summed up in the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. The redemptive work of God is summed up here in John 3:16."**

I. "God So Loved The World"

a. The Basis of God's Love

- i. Whether it's written on a sign at the Super bowl or on a t-shirt walking down the street. John 3:16 is one of those scriptures that Christians have realized summarizes the Bible so very well. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
- ii. It tells us of God's love, it tells us of what that love did for us, and it tells us how we are able to receive that love.
 1. The Bible tells us in Genesis 1 that "God created the heaven and the earth", we believe that right? Doesn't it makes sense that God loves what He has created?
 - a. Genesis 2:7 – "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."
 2. With the rest of creation, God merely spoke and it was. Yet God took time in forming man and woman. He gave them dominion over the earth. God related directly to Adam and Eve.
 3. Sure, God disapproved of Adam & Eve's sin just as He does the sin in this world & the way that the church has fallen away from Him, but He still loves the world.
 - a. As a parent, no doubt your children have more than likely disappointed you in the last month at last once; but your love for them remains, right?
- iii. Yet so many fail to see this simple truth that God loves us.
 1. The song we teach our children at an early age says, "Jesus loves me, this I know".

2. John 3:16 is the very basis of our faith in God, to realize His great love for us regardless of how awful & wretched we are.
 - a. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,”
 - b. This verse changes everything! It changes the way that Christianity can be seen. It changes the way we view God.
3. Up until this time, much of the secular world including the Pharisees, viewed God as a God of holiness, of law, and of judgment ... and He is. But no one ever stressed the overriding attribute of God, His love for the world.

b. The Value Of What He Loves

- i. Of all the things in this world, what would cause Him to send His Sinless Son to come to earth to die for guilty men & women like you & me? There’s only one answer ... He so loved us. We are that valuable to Him.
 1. “So loved”: to love perfectly; to love to the ultimate degree
 2. People often time exclaim, “No one loves me! No one cares what is going on in my life.”
 3. I can’t speak for the people surrounding you, but God speaks for Himself & leaves nothing to question His great love for you b/c He created you, He formed you with His hands & He cares for you today.
- ii. Illustration of pocket books.

II. Jesus Came Not “To Condemn The World”

a. He Was Sent By God

- i. Interestingly enough, v.17 tells us that Jesus did come on His own. Through the Incarnation or the sending of His Only Son, God once again proved His love for the world.
- ii. But why did Jesus have to come? Why would God have to send His Son?
- iii. Because quite simply, there was no other way!
 1. We deserved to be judged & condemned.
 - a. Romans 3:23 tells us that we are ALL guilty of breaking God’s law.
 - b. Romans 3:9-18 tells us that we are already condemned, we are just awaiting the sentencing to be carried out.
 2. There is only One who can free us from this condemnation & His name is Jesus Christ.
 3. But wait, v.17 tell us that Jesus did not come to condemn ...

b. He Was Sent To Save

- i. Christ was sent to save us from perishing to an everlasting hell & instead save us to eternal life.
 1. Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 2. I Timothy 1:15 – “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

III. God Proved His Love By What He Gave

a. The Gift

- i. If someone tells you they are a millionaire, it doesn’t mean that much until you see proof of it, right?
- ii. If your mate says that they love you & are committed to you ... words are great and are needed, but their actions speak louder than their words.
- iii. Well, all throughout scripture, God has continued to show His love for His people ... protection, blessings, miracles, delivering them from the enemy.
- iv. But then God set out to prove His love once and for all to the world by giving something that would cost Him greatly, His Only Son.

1. Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth (to demonstrate, to display, to give evidence, to prove something) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
 2. God could have chosen just to let us die in our sins, but His love would not allow that to happen.
 3. His love demanded a way of escape for you & I that could only be afforded through the blood of a sinless sacrifice, the Lamb of God.
- v. God didn’t make this possible just for the elite, for the chosen, or for the Jews; but His love extended to all the world.

b. Our Choice

- i. You know, we have talked a lot about God’s love this morning, the depth of His love, and the gift of His love.
- ii. But I consider this last point a gift as well. He gave us a choice to accept this gift of redemption or to reject it.
 1. God didn’t build us in such a way that He demanded we take His way.
 2. Nor were the qualifications for this gift so high we could not attain it.
 3. Instead, He left us with a choice ... accept it or reject it ... take it or leave it.
 - a. He has proven His love.
 - b. He has paid for our freedom.
 - c. But His plan was to give us a “free will” to accept Heaven or hell.

- **If you continue reading, v.18 says, “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already,”**
- Simply stated this morning, b/c we have all sinned, there is a great divide that separates us from God. And the fact is that we cannot cross that divide on our own. But God, in His wisdom, sent His Son to cross that divide and to make a way of escape for you & I all b/c of His great love for us.
 - Henry Moorehouse was a washed up boxer who had turned to heavy drinking at the age of only 19. While holding a gun in his hand & contemplating suicide, he overheard a Gospel message on the radio. After being led to Christ over the next few days, with no training or formal education, he set out to preach the Gospel message. He sent a letter to D.L Moody & told him that he was coming to Chicago & Moody invited him to preach. His text for that evening, John 3:16. He followed up his sermon by making this observation, “I have been trying to tell you how much God loves you. Suppose I could borrow Jacob’s ladder. Suppose I could ascend that shining stairway until my feet stood on the sapphire pavements of the city of God. Suppose I could find Gabriel, the herald angel who stands in the presence of God. Suppose I could say, ‘Tell me, Gabriel, how much does God love the world?’ I know what he would say. He would say, ‘Henry Morehouse, God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. That’s how much God loves the world.’”
- **This is the freedom that God offers. This is the power that God has. This is the love that God shows. We all have sins, we all have things that have power over us, even today. We all have problems that we cannot work our way out of. Don’t be ashamed of this, for you are not alone. Instead, give God complete control over your life & allow Him through His love to do a work in your life.**
- **God created you to live in a special relationship with him. He created you to have a special purpose, a special meaning to your life. He created each of us for this. You don’t need to work yourself to a certain point before he will have anything to do with you. Give him control. Allow him in. He will fill you, he will make the changes he needs with you b/c God loves you.**

- **It is truly that simple. Accept Jesus, allow him into your life, and you will find salvation, not only from hell, but from the sins and trials that plague you here on earth. God is offering this to you out of love. He is offering this to you because he wants you to live a better life, because he wants you to know the joy that his love brings.**