

THE EXCLUSIVE LOVE OF GOD

John 3:16, 17

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INTRODUCTION: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 3

I. GOD LOVED

The love of God is perhaps the least understood, most talked about characteristic of God.

? What are some common misconceptions about the love of God?

Unconditional Love:

Grandpa love:

Universal Love:

Nonjudgmental Love:

Arbitrary/Fickle Love:

Abusive Love:

Optional Love: .

Political Love:

? How Does God define His attribute of love?

There are four main words ancient Greeks used to express love.

Eros:

Storge:

Phileo:

Revelation 3:19

Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

Agape: sacrificial and selfless care

God's Love

God demonstrates loyalty, sacrificial care, enthusiasm, devotion, and warm affection and attachment for persons other than Himself.

II. GOD'S LOVE EXPRESSED EXCLUSIVELY IN CHRIST

A. THIS IS HOW GOD LOVES

Matthew 6:9a

"Pray, then, in this way..."

John 3:16 (God's Word translation)

God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

B. THIS IS WHO GOD LOVES

1. The World

? Who actually receives God's love?

2. The One Believing

- Not merely mental assent
- Resting/ trusting in God's provision to save
- being satisfied in Jesus

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty.

- a. Who will not die
- b. Who will live forever

Jonathan Edwards

We can never by soaring and ascending come to the height of [God's love]; we can never by descending come to the depth of it; or by measuring, know the length and breadth of it...So that let the thoughts and desires extend themselves as they will, here is space enough for them, in which they may expand for ever. How blessed therefore are they that do see God, who are come to this exhaustless fountain! They have obtained that delight which gives full satisfaction; having come to this pleasure, they neither do nor can desire any more. They can sit down fully contented, and take up with this enjoyment for ever and ever, and desire no change. After they have had the pleasure of beholding the face of God millions of ages, it will not grow a dull story; the relish of this delight will be as exquisite as ever, there is enough still for the utmost employment of every faculty.

? Why is God's love only given through Jesus?

1. God's world, God's rules.
2. Independence was man's original sin.

III. CHRIST'S MISSION FOUNDED EXCLUSIVELY IN LOVE

Romans 3:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

A. NOT TO JUDGE THE WORLD

? What about John 9:39?

B. TO SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH CHRIST

CONCLUSION: WHO CAN BE SAVED?

The story of Jesus and Nicodemus and the commentary that follows shows both how one can be and who actually is saved.

1. You must be born again

? How can you tell when someone is saved?

2. People who are born again respond with faith.

3. Faith must be in the object of God's provision.

4. Faith must be exclusively in Christ,

APPLICATION

? How do you define God's love? Does that differ than the way God defines Himself?

? Does the exclusivity of God's love frustrate you or give you a feeling of confident assurance and joyful satisfaction?

? What was Jesus' mission of love? Does your mission in life center on the mission of Christ?