

John 3:16-17 – God’s Love

Introduction:

1. Rolland Stewart, Tim Tebow, and John 3:16
2. This verse is Famous and Familiar
3. There is a difference between the world God loves and the whosoever wills who believe in God’s Son

Main Idea: God is love. His love is great and His love is complex. The way God loves the world is costly for He gave/sent His only Son to die for sinners. Sinners in the category of los world perish. Sinners who believe in Christ alone inherit eternal life.

God is Love and This Divine Love is Complex (v 16)

1. Our Culture: Love is accepting everything, no matter what
2. The God of the Bible loves, and hates
 - a. God hates the wicked (**Psalm 11:5**)
 - b. God hates workers of iniquity (**Psalm 5:4-6**)
 - c. God hates the sacrifices of the wicked (**Proverbs 15:8**)
 - d. God hates the ways of the wicked (**Proverbs 15:9**)
 - e. God hated Edom (**Malachi 1:3**)
 - f. God hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans (**Revelation 2:6**)
3. God is love, but also Holy, Just, Righteous, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, an all consuming fire, wrathful against sinners
4. Do you see the Problem? God loves the world!
 - a. *The World:* The created totality of fallen humanity
 - i. It is hateful and evil (**John 7:7**); It cannot see the Spirit or receive the Spirit (**John 14:17**); It is ruled by the Devil (**John 14:30**)
 - ii. It does not receive Jesus as God in the flesh (**John 1:10**); It hates God, the Son, and Followers (**John 15:18**) – **The World is BAD!**
5. *How can the Psalmist describe God as abhorring the wicked, fallen world, and John say “For God so loved the world...”?*

God’s Love is Great and This Divine Love is Costly (vv 16-18)

1. God’s Trinitarian Love – The Father, Son, and Spirit were the objects of Divine Love for all eternity (**John 3:35, 14:31**)
 - a. This love is different from how God loves sinners, for God loves sinners in spite of their sin
2. God’s Endless, Vast, Unlimited Love (**Psalms 103:11, 17**)
3. God’s *Agapeo* – Unconditional Love
 - a. He chose to love an evil fallen world, sinful, wicked humanity that was in rebellion against Him
 - b. He chose to love in spite of Sinners

- c. The Sinner Loved – God Loves the Unloveable
 - i. We were dead in sin (**Eph 2:1**), walked in deadness, followed the world, the Devil, disobedient (**Eph 2:2**)
 - ii. We chose fleshly things, with evil desires & by nature we were children of God’s wrath (**Eph 2:3**)
 - iii. God had great love, making us alive and saving us by His Grace (**Eph 2:4-5**)
 - d. The Sinner brings nothing to God for Him to save
 - i. God chose the weak and foolish (**1 Corinthians 1:27**)
 - ii. God chose the sinner, not the righteous (**Matt 9:13**)
4. God’s General, Common Love/Grace for All
 - a. God sustains the world, even for His enemies (**Ps 145:9, Matt 5:44-45**)
 - b. God’s General/Common Love is NOT Salvific Grace
5. God’s Sacrificial Love – It is a Costly Gift
 - a. God gave His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ
 - b. ILLUS: Genesis 22 – The Sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham
 - i. God crushed His Only Son at Calvary (**Isaiah 53:10**)
6. God’s Missional Love – He Sent His Son to Die for Sinners
 - a. God sent His Son on Mission (**John 10:17-18**)
 - b. The Mission of the Church: To see the salvation of sinners by bearing witness to the Son’s life, death, & resurrection
 - c. Jesus is the judge of all, but His primary mission is to save
7. God’s Impartial, Unbiased, Indiscriminate Love
 - a. This love is for whoever believes
 - b. **πῦς ὁ πιστεύων** – Literally *all the believing*
 - c. God does not just save Jews, or minorities, or males, or the rich, or just Americans – He saves all kinds – no distinction
8. God’s Covenantal Love – the difference between God loving the world and the special group of whoever believes
 - a. **πῦς ὁ πιστεύων** – All the believing are those who experience this covenantal love (by Grace through Faith)
9. God’s Rescuing/Ransoming Love – The eternally perishing/condemned are bought and rescued by the price of Jesus’ blood
 - a. Jesus was the sinner’s substitute
10. God’s Eternal, Unending, Everlasting Love
 - a. God’s Love rests on the believer in eternity’s past and into eternity’s future: *Everlasting TO Everlasting* (**Ps 103:17**)
 - b. Eternal Life/Love is given to the believer when born again
 - c. Eternal Love cannot be forsaken/lost (**Romans 8:38-39**)
11. God’s Free Love – Salvation cannot be bought, earned, merited
 - a. Jesus accomplished all that is needed for salvation, sufficient (no self-effort, self-righteousness)
 - b. Nothing can be humanly added to accomplish salvation
 - c. ILLUS: John Newton