

## John 3:16-21 – Darkness To Light

### Introduction

1. God loves the Unloveable
2. God loves without Distinction – All the world, not just Jews
3. John 3:18-21 = God's Courtroom
4. The whosoever believes (John 3:16) & the whosoever does not believe (John 3:18-20)

**Main Idea: God is Just. Man is not born neutral or innocent, but as a sinner. Therefore, he stands before God rightly condemned already in his natural state. His nature loves the darkness and hates the light (Jesus).**

**God is the author of the believer's faith. Any sinner who comes to the light (Christ) demonstrates that his belief and coming to Jesus is carried out by the power of God in the sinner by being given a new heart and new nature.**

### The Divine Tribunal (vv 18-21)

1. Courtroom Language: Judgment, Verdict, Conviction, Testimony/Witness, Evidence
2. God is as Just and Holy as He is Loving
3. Two Trials: Accusations and Rebellion by the Condemned and The Grace of God bringing some to Belief

### No Neutrality: Man is Born w/ Original Sin, in Darkness (v 18)

1. The World is Broken, Fallen, Evil, Condemned – there is a disconnect between people, God, and one's self
2. Why? Answer: The World Refuses to Believe in Jesus Christ
3. The world is condemned – Problem: Verse 17 says Jesus did not come to condemn the world
  - a. The unbelievers *already* stand condemned before God (**see also verse 36**)
  - b. The World is by nature, NOT innocent or neutral
4. Everyone enters into this world a sinner in need of a Savior
  - a. All are guilty, perishing, under God's wrath
  - b. Before Jesus was sent to the world, it was condemned by God as unrighteous, fallen, wicked
  - c. Man is not basically good, but basically evil (**Mat 7:11, Jer 17:9, Mark 7:21-23, Rom 3:23, Eph 2:3**)
  - d. Without Redemption we are evil, corrupt, totally depraved
  - e. We are blind to the depth of our Sin
  - f. We inherit the sin nature from Adam, the head of the race
5. The world is blind: Why do bad things happen to good people?

- a. The Bible: Why does anything good happen to anyone?
- b. The World: What about the innocent who never hear truth?
- c. The Bible: There are none innocent! (**Romans 1:18-20**)

### God's Justice: Christ Has Come Exposing the Darkness (vv 19-20)

1. Sinners reject Jesus because from their own free will, they choose what they want and love
2. The Sinful Nature dictates the affections and the will of sinners
3. The Light (Christ) is available, but the sinful nature of man always prefers the darkness over the light
4. The natural man (lost man) is ignorant, sinful, corrupt; totally depraved in their thinking, emotions, and will
5. Even with the right circumstances, message, atmosphere – the sinful nature of natural man will still say no and resist the light
6. The natural man prefers the darkness because his deeds are evil (worthless, wicked) (**see 2 Peter 2:21-22**)
7. To hear the Gospel is privilege and dangerous for now the one who hears is responsible to believe (**Matthew 11:21**)
8. Jesus comes not to judge (**v 17**): Why are some condemned, & what about **John 9:29**: Jesus coming to the world causes division – this is judgment
9. The condemned are judged by what they love and hate
  - a. They do wicked things – love the world, hate the truth
  - b. The wicked do not want their evil deeds exposed
10. Unbelief is Immoral – the natural man loves his freedom to sin
11. Jesus causes Division – exposes the darkness (**Luke 2:34-35**)
12. Sinful, natural man will not come to the light because of a hard heart – he does not WANT to come (**Eph 4:17-28, Ez 36:26**)

### God's Mercy: Belief – Coming to Jesus – Is By God's Grace (v 21)

1. Those who do the truth (believers) come to the light, willing to expose their evil deeds, and be shown they are wrong
2. They say YES to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
3. They come from the World that is condemned and loves the Darkness: *Why do they love the truth and come to the light?*
4. Doing what is true, the believers works, coming to the light is by the power of God, the author of the Christian's Life
5. God is the explanation for believers loving the truth, coming to the light = God is the one who made alive, birthed anew
6. God causes the stony heart to become flesh, given the Holy Spirit in order to obey His rules (**Ezekiel 36:27**)
  - a. Rule 1: *Come to the Light*: Believers come for God's Grace is irresistible to them, they WANT to come (**Jn 6:37**)
  - b. Your faith/belief is a gift from God to come to the light
  - c. Believers *believe* by God's grace alone: He deserves thanks