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The Love of God

John 3:16

February 26, 2017

I. God Loves

- A. The _____ love of God for the Son
(Jn 3:35; 5:20)
- B. The _____ love of God for His creation
(Gen. 1:31; Matt. 5:43-45)
- C. The _____ love of God for the world
(Jn. 3:16)
- D. The _____ love of God for the elect
(Deut. 4:36-37; 7:7-8; Jn. 15:15-16; Acts 13:48; 1 Thes. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:9)
- E. The _____ love of God for the obedient
(Ex. 20:6; Ps. 103:11; Jude 21; Jn. 15:9-10)

II. God Gives

- A. God gave that which was most _____ to Him
(Matt. 3:17; 12:18; 17:5; 2 Pet. 1:17)
- B. God gave that which would give Him the most _____
(Rom. 8:32; 2 Cor. 9:15)
- C. God gave that which would give Him the most _____
(Isa. 53:4-6, 10; Jn. 10:15)
- D. God gave that which He had _____ to give
(Rom. 4:20-21)

III. God Saves

- A. _____ are invited to come to faith in Christ
(Rom. 10:13; Acts 2:21; 17:30)
- B. _____ those who believe will escape hell
(Matt. 10:28; James 4:12)
- C. _____ Christian receives eternal life
(Jn. 3:15, 36; 5:24; 6:27; 10:28)

TAKE HOME

- Has not God's love _____ your heart?
- Has not God's gift _____ His commitment to you?
- Has not God's salvation been _____ freely to you?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read John 3:16. Do you remember the first time you heard this verse? Do you remember memorizing this verse as a child? Discuss how this verse has impacted your life over the years.

2. Have you ever considered the different kinds of love that God has revealed in various contexts? What do you think about His perfect and providential love? (Jn. 3:35; 5:20; Gen. 1:31; Matt. 5:43-45)

3. Read John 3:16 again. Let’s focus now on this love that God has for the world. How are we to understand how he loves everyone in the world but not in the same way? How do we keep a healthy balance of what this verse is teaching?

4. Discuss the particular love of God and the provisional love of God. Do you agree that there is a different type of love that God has for His own than He has in general for the world? Why or why not? Which Scripture references would you use to support your view?

5. How does it strike you that God gave His most precious gift, which caused Him the most pain, but brought Him the most pleasure, all while keeping His promise?

6. Are all invited to faith in Christ? How is it that only those who believe come? Why do some believe and others do not? What are the two aspects of eternal life mentioned in the sermon?

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? What part of John 3:16 will you see in a different way based on our study of this great verse?

*“Though the Gospel is proclaimed to men of every tribe and nation,
not every one who hears it believes in the Son.
But whoever believes—whether he be a Jew or a Gentile—has everlasting life.”*

- William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary on John*