

Series: Life to the Full; *Sermon:* **For God so Loved the World**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **October 22, 2017**

Bible text explored: John 3:16–21

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” [ESV]

Review and application:

As a prominent religious leader, a puzzled Nicodemus told Jesus (John 3:2) “we know” you are a rabbi whose teaching is accompanied by God-empowered signs. Jesus quickly demonstrated that Nicodemus failed to grasp even the kingdom-of-God basics. But he spoke from experience about what “we know” (John 3:11). In today’s paragraph he summed up the basics.

1. In the most widely known summary of the gospel (v. 16), what does what God gave tell us about how much he loved the world? (See also, *1 John 4:9-10*.)
How does this love differ from sentimentality?
What makes the word *only* especially significant?
(See *Gen. 22:2, 16-17; Rom 8:32*.)
2. With what in God’s character is this love in tension? (See *Rom. 1:18; 2:5*.)
Is God love extended to us because of who we are or because of his own character?
3. Does the word *world*, as it is used in the Gospel of John, refer primarily to what God created as good, or to humanity, largely hostile to his rule?
Is this love limited to any race or nation?
Does it exclude those who are opposed or rebellious?
4. What condition must be met to receive God’s incomparable eternal gift?
How is this different from mental assent to a set of beliefs?
5. What (vv. 17-18) was God’s purpose in making this gift available?
Who is responsible for rejection of the offered gift?
6. What (vv. 19-21) is God’s verdict on . . .
. . . those who remain in darkness by clinging to moral pride?
. . . those who come into the light, placing total confidence in his gift?
7. What are some consequences we must live with because we are part of a world system under God’s condemnation? (See *Rom. 8:22-23*.)
8. Since God sent his Son, how should those who have received his gift passionately reflect his sending nature?