

I. RENOWNED VERSE FROM GOD

A. Read John. 3:16 & 17

B. God is Love

1. I John 4:8 – “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
2. I John 4:16 – “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”
3. We can say that:
 - a. God is gracious, but we cannot say He is Grace
 - b. God is compassionate, but we cannot say that He is compassion.
 - c. God has kindness, but kindness does not define His nature
 - d. God is loving, AND He is ALSO Love
4. Love defines His very nature.
5. What is Love?
 - a. The World Does NOT know!
 - i. Wikipedia “Love” - Love encompasses a range of strong and positive emotional and mental states, from the most sublime virtue or good habit, the deepest interpersonal affection and to the simplest pleasure.[1][2] An example of this range of meanings is that the love of a mother differs from the love of a spouse, which differs from the love of food. Most commonly, **love refers to a feeling of strong attraction and emotional attachment.**
 - ii. Wiki “Lust” - Lust is a psychological force producing intense wanting or longing for an object, or circumstance fulfilling the emotion.
 - b. God knows!
 - i. Love is an action! Love is a commitment!
 - ii. Romans 5:6 - “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
6. Marriage as an example
 - a. Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
 - i. No less a command than for wives to honor their husbands
 - ii. Neither are elective – but they should be dynamic!
 - iii. More of one should product more of the other!

- b. God did NOT tell husbands to have “warm feelings of strong attraction and emotional attachment” to their wives!
- c. He said LOVE them as Christ LOVED (and GAVE Himself)
- d. The same word as used when it says “Christ DIED for us.”
- e. Selfless and ACTIVE commitment
 - i. Love is a CHOICE that moves to ACTION
 - ii. Love is not a feeling that sits motionless
 - iii. Inactive love has no value
- f. James 2:16 – “And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”
- g. Aren’t you glad that Jesus didn’t just tell us to “be saved” and nothing else?

C. The World

1. What is it? God speaks much of it.
 - a. John 1:10 – “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.”
 - b. John 1:29 – “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”
 - c. John 6:33 – “For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.”
 - d. John 6:51 – “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”
 - e. John 8:12 – “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”
2. Not an “elect” world – the whole world!
 - a. If God only sent Jesus to save an elect few
 - b. That makes God a liar
 - i. I Timothy 2:3&4 – “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
 - ii. II Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
 - c. God is NOT limited! Any thought of limited atonement is error
 - d. I John 2:2 – “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

D. The Word “So”

1. We often mistake this word to indicate an amount.
2. Means “in this manner” or “thus”
 - a. See it in John 3:8 – so
 - b. John 3:14 – so
3. Let us see the way in which God loved!
 - a. The Revealed Love of God
 - b. The Reconciliation with God
 - c. Regeneration from God
 - d. Reason Given by God

II. REVEALED LOVE OF GOD

- A. God revealed His love in the most dramatic fashion ever seen
 1. A king, sending His own Son to die in a criminal’s place
 2. It has never been seen, not before, nor since
 3. This was no earthly kingdom, like Nicodemus expected
 4. This king came not to rebel but to REDEEM!
- B. Luke 20:9 – 16 (if time)
 1. Luke 20:13 – “Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him.”
 2. They didn’t! They took Him! They killed Him!
- C. God revealed His love through His action
 1. Not our own
 2. We cannot ever earn His love – He gave it freely

III. RECONCILIATION TO GOD

- A. What happens when we Respond to God’s Love?
 1. He reconciles us with Himself
 2. The wages of sin are death – someone has to pay
 3. So God knew we never could – even through eternity in Hell
 4. So He, in His love, paid our debts for us!
- B. I John 4:10 – “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- C. Defined - The act of appeasing wrath and conciliating the favor of an offended person; the act of making propitious.
 1. He took on the wrath He did not deserve
 2. To place on us the righteousness we could never earn!

IV. REGENERATION WITH GOD

- A. A part in the Resurrection!
 1. John 3:16 – HAVE (positive, not a question)

- 2. John 3:16 – HAVE (present tense, not some future possibility)
- 3. We do not have to hope and wait to see if we made it!
- B. 1 John 5:13 – “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
- C. John 10:10 – “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”
- D. We were dead in trespasses and sins
 - 1. He gave us new life!
 - 2. He quickened our dead spirit
 - 3. He made us alive in Him!

V. REASON GIVEN BY GOD

- A. Nicodemus and his expectations
 - 1. The Messiah did not come to condemn the world
 - a. To battle, to destroy, to cast down the Romans
 - b. To create an earthly kingdom
 - 2. John 18:36 – “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”
 - 3. There is no reason to COME HERE to condemn the world
 - a. He could have stayed in the glories of Heaven to do that!
 - b. No need to be born of virgin in Bethlehem!
- B. He did not come to condemn
 - 1. The world is already condemned (vs. 18 will tell us that)
 - 2. He came to SEEK and to SAVE that which was lost
- C. He came for you. He came for me.
- D. Be saved today!