

November 25, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
JOHN 3 in 3D: Belief And The Eternal Third Dimension
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John 3:16-19 ESV

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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever 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. ¹⁹ And 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.

Why Does Belief Matter? Vs. 16

- Belief is the beginning of our eternal life. Through belief we develop a muddled view of an eternal dimension that exists in the present.

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen - not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” C.S. Lewis, *Is Theology Poetry?*

- You will believe in something, and that something will be the lens in which you see the world.
- Your beliefs guide the habits/rituals in which you partake.

3 Habits and Beliefs:

Habit

Belief

Why Place Your Belief in Jesus? Vs. 17

- The blood of Jesus is the ink in which the redemption story of the world is written. Thus, by placing your faith in Jesus you begin to see life through a redemptive lens.
- Jesus is the only universal measuring stick of God's love.

The Work of Love Vs. 18-19

- Your love is shaped by your works and your worship.

"The practices of Christian worship train our love. They are practice for the coming Kingdom, habituating us as citizens of the Kingdom of God."
James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love*
- God's intention is not condemnation but liberation.

Summary Point: Eternal life is presently acquired through faith, which is best strengthened by habitual, loving worship. This worship will shape your loves as you take residence in the eternal light, to which is the joy of living.