

April 7, 2024

The Gospel of John
S3E1: LOVE—LIGHT—LIFE

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John 3:16-21

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

The Gospel of Jesus in the book of John focuses on 3 L's
Love-Life-Light

Gospel: Origins and Meaning

The English word "gospel" comes from the Old English "godspell," which means "good news" or "glad tidings." This term is a translation of the Greek word "euangelion" (εὐαγγέλιον), where we also get the word "evangelical." In the context of the Bible, it refers to the good news of Jesus Christ's coming, his teachings, death, and resurrection, and the salvation offered to humanity.

1. **Love in Action:** "The story of God in the world is one of Love in Action."

Vs. 16-17 *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

"Love is not an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish
for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained." - C.S. Lewis

- God's love was proven in the **giving**. God gave.
- Love comes to fruition in the receiving.

2. Death Undone:

- **Vs. 17** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*
- **John 3:17** undoes the lie that God is a capricious and angry God.
 - **Dead upon arrival:** The world was dead before Jesus was sent. Jesus was sent to bring life back to the dead.

- **Ephesians 2:1-3** - *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath."*

Practical takeaways:

- **The Gospel demands a response:** **John 3:19** *Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*
- **Eternal life starts today.**

Small Group Questions:

1. Read John 3:16. God's love is shown as more than a feeling, but an act of generosity. What happens when love is feelings based?
2. If God's love is based in action, should that love also not call for a responsive action on our part as part of our believing? How do we love God with our actions?
3. Vs. 17 says that Jesus came to save us from condemnation. Still many believers live in self-condemnation. What are some tools we can implement to help us live as the saved rather than the condemned?
4. In John 3:16 we see that eternal life comes from believing rather than doing. Why do you think God made it this way?
5. John 3:16 is the most well-known verse in the bible, but what does it say to you personally?