



Ministers Uncompromisingly Submitted to Christ in Love and Endless Service®

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Empowering the body of Christ with the Life Changing word of God

The Love Series: Foundation

John 3:16 For God (who is love) so loved the world that He gave....

Because God is love, having an essential divine nature that is love and fully capable of loving independent of outward circumstances He could fully give of His only begotten Son in spite of the reality of man's sin (rebellion, wickedness, selfishness, self centeredness, idolatry) which was an affront to God's nature. As earlier indicated in our January teaching there is something about love that results in giving. Giving is a fundamental of love. Love cannot be love except there is an element of giving associated with it because love is an adverb. It demonstrates an action. Love is more of something done than something said. Love is selfless, looking out more for the needs of the object of its target than self need. Love is selfless.

No verse in the bible has been more quoted than John 3:16 and aptly so because it is the pinnacle of the manifestation of the love of God for humanity. John 3: 16 is an extension of 1John 4:8. It gives full fledge to the revelation of the nature of the God who is love described in John's letter. God who is love gave because He is love and He loves His creation, Man. John 3:16 did not exist before 1 John 4:8. God did not give and then loved, He gave because he is love and loved. John 3:16 is the consequence of who God is revealed in 1John 4:8. Because God is love, He so loved the world that in love and because of His divine nature of Love He gave. **John 3:16 does not define who God is, it reveals who He is.** The things God does do not define who He is, they reveal who He is. He is love and because He is love He gave and gives. **Even if God didn't give His only begotten Son and chose to judge all of mankind eternally in hell because of sin, God would still be love because God who is eternally the same is love independent of outward circumstances.**

John 3:16 reveals three things as it pertains to the nature of God who is love. Firstly it reveals God's immense love for the world by the use of the phrase "so loved". Secondly, it reveals that because God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son. Thirdly it reveals that the world or humans are the object of that love. What I want to focus on here is the revelation of what He did and not who He gave. God gave. Giving is a fundamental essence and aspect of the nature of love. Love gives because love loves and love loves to give. God gives because God who is love loves to give and it brings Him pleasure. Jesus said of the Father that it is His good pleasure to give his children the kingdom and through out the epistles the things that have been freely given to us as New Testament believers are revealed. It is your responsibility to find out what they are and appropriate them.

The bible is full of God's demonstrative manifestation of power in signs and wonders. However, I am fully convinced that there is an act that far surpasses God's demonstration of power in creation of all that is visible and invisible. And that is the giving of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. The veracity of this assertion can only be authenticated by the eternal bond of oneness in unity, love and fellowship that exist in the Godhead. To give of something one creates that is not an essential part of ones being is incomparable in dimension when it comes to one giving away an essential part of oneself for a cause that would be based on faith. It takes something greater or equal to the purpose or cause for which it is been given.

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Now abides faith, hope, love, these three: but the greatest of these is love. 1Corinthians 13:13

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I have often wondered and find myself thinking, “ God though it was your will it must have been emotionally difficult for you to see your only begotten Son leave the glory of heaven for planet earth and knowing all He had to go through and what and who He had to become to redeem man? People who think that Abraham expressed no emotion when asked by God to sacrifice his son are robotic in their thinking. The rightness of an occasion does not diminish the emotion of the moment. God loves sinners and though not all sinners will accept His Son Jesus Christ God has no choice but to allow them to face the eternal judgement of their choice. It is the righteous thing to do in accordance with God’s holiness and justice, yet according to God’s words to the prophet Isaiah it does not diminish the emotion of the moment. God asked the prophet this cutting question, “ Do you think I take pleasure in the death of a sinner?” The rightness of the action does not diminish the emotions of the moment. Every time God loses a soul to hell it breaks His heart just as every time a person accepts Christ it causes all of heaven to rejoice.

Even so with humans, it is often an extremely emotional time for parents when that young boy or girl leaves home for college or goes away for an extended period of time from home. Though it is an occasion of joy parents often weep as they give away their “little girl” in marriage. The necessity and joy of the occasion does not eradicate the emotion of the moment. It is because of the bond of love that exists there. Children are products of their parents and when children leave parents some times feel they are losing a part of themselves. Even so God, when a soul is lost forever God is in essence losing a part of Himself because the breath of life in man came out from God into man that made him a living soul-spirit being.

So the giving of His son I believe is the greatest demonstration of the nature and power of God because Jesus is He who the Father loves eternally. However, because of His love for humanity created in His image and likeness God as a Father and creator responsible for the welfare of His creation gave. Were we deserving of His grace? We all know that the answer to that is NO. Was God obligated to redeem man? I don’t know that the answer to that question is as easy as yes or no but this I know. When you create something there is a moral obligation of personal responsibility to the well being of that which you create. I am fully convinced that we don’t have a mature enough revelation of the implications of God creating man in His own image and likeness and how that necessitates redemption as it relates to the fall of man. However, people who bring children into the world have a moral obligation to the well being of that baby to provide and nurture that child by themselves or if they are unable to place that child in a loving home where He/she will be adequately and lovingly provided for.

God didn’t just love the world. The length, breath, dept and height of His love for man is emphasized in the word so loved that the only way we could comprehend that love was in God’s demonstration of the greatest manifestation of love there is which is the giving of one’s life so that someone else can live. A fundamental aspect of the nature of love is giving. Where there is love there is giving. Love always demonstrates something that goes to benefit someone else. God’s love compels Him to give. Because of His love for you and I He gave His Son Jesus Christ.

Another word that unveils the magnitude of God’s love for us is the word only. God didn’t give one of many sons. He had only one son. In the world today we sometime have this reality of a “spoiled” child, an only child upon whom the parents pour all their affections giving that child everything he/she needs and even wants. Jesus was not a spoiled child; He was however the object of His Father’s perfect affection. The magnitude of the bond of affection between a parent and an only child is greatly heightened by the reality that there is only one child. God had only one begotten Son. He was the object of His love, union, and fellowship according to the Psalms and John 17. They exist as one eternally in perfect love and union. Because God loved man, His creation He gave the one and only precious Son of His bosom as a seed so as to

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beget sons and daughters In Him. Giving one of a kind of many does not lessen the emotional enormity of the act. Give one and all of a kind is a radical and drastic action that reveals the intensity of the heart of the giver for the object and cause to which it is given. The passion involved when one gives the only one of a kind rather than many of the same though does not lessen the intensity of the action because we are talking about human life, reveals the intensity, passion and faith in the giver for the object and cause for which it is been given.

God so loved the world that He gave. According to John 3:16 giving is the product of love. Giving is a natural outflow of a heart that loves and in Romans 5:6-10 Paul by the Holy Spirit further reveals the magnitude of the level of God's love for humanity when He said that God manifested His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. This verse reveals that it is a rare and scarce thing for anyone to die for a righteous or good person. To die for an unrighteous person is unheard of. And that is exactly what God in Christ did. He died for an unrighteous humanity because God who is love out of love gave His one and only begotten son, manifesting the highest form of love by giving of His life for the unrighteous, His enemies. Who in their right mind would want to die for sinners, outcasts, lawbreakers, transgressors, rebels or rejects. No body in their logical mind would want to do that. However, love is rarely a logical emotion. Love seeks out the best of others and exists to give for the benefit of others. The phrase "I love you" is meaningless if there is an absence of evident reality of proof that demonstrates the verb of that word.

Love is more of a verb than a noun. By giving Himself, Jesus manifested the highest level of love. Jesus didn't just die for his friends; He gave His life up for his enemies because God who is love so loved the world. The immensity of God's love in mercy wanting to reach out towards a helpless and depraved world incapable of helping itself as it relates to redemption was and is so beyond the full comprehension our senses that the only way God could even begin to make us see the magnitude of His love was to give his own life. Love is an action word, something done rather than said. Fallen humanity would not have known the magnitude of God's love and the extent to which He would go had He not given Himself, exchanging His life for ours so that having defeated sin, the grave, death and hell we would be found in Christ. Natural provision of necessary sustenance from a parent is ample evidence of love for that child. However, and in whatever situation, the magnitude to which love is amplified when one literally gives his life for another is beyond comprehension. This is something done. That is what love did. God who is love gave.

It is not love except it is giving. The true nature of love is giving of oneself in various forms, the greatest of which is literally giving one's life so that another might live. God is a giving Father. His love and giving nature is impartial. God has set laws in motion that governs the existence of man such that even the unbelievers benefit from operating in those laws. The new covenant sealed in the blood of Christ is an everlasting covenant whereby God has made provision for an everlasting flow of blessings to all who are in Christ. Jesus speaking to his disciples (followers) of which we are said " my little children it is the Father's pleasure to give you the Kingdom". The implication of that statement is that with and in the Kingdom is everything God is and owns. The bible says that God, who is love, has given us all things that pertain to this life and godliness. God who is love, gave His only begotten Son, who gave His life and has given us His Holy Spirit who (if you will allow Him will reveal and lead you into all things that has been freely given to you by God who is love) Trust Him today and bless His holy name.

Shalom and with much love as always

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