The Love Of God

Randy Harshbarger · John 3:16–21

INTRODUCTION

- If there is one thing the world believes about God, the world believes that God is a God of love.
- We may be comfortable about God's love, but I would suggest to you that maybe we have faulty notions really about what the love of God is.
- Let's understand what God says his love is and appropriate it to our lives.

1 It Is Simply Astonishing That God Loves Us

John 3:16; Deuteronomy 7:7; John 1:10

- It is simply astonishing that God loves us, but here's another question. Do we think of God's love in those terms?
- The world in John chapter 3 is a world that is messed up. It is messed up because of sin.
- It's not who you are. It's not what you've done. It's not because of some great accomplishment upon your part.
- We're the world crippled by sin. And we need for God to love us, and the fact that God loves us is astonishing.
- When we persist in sin and rebellion before God, really we're trying to take glory away from God.

2 The Measure of God's Love Is Jesus

John 17:23–24; John 6:37–40; Luke 23:34

- We sinned. We just thumbed our noses at God. But he has still chosen to save us in spite of how we have acted.
- God loves us so much that he gave himself. So the measure of God's love is Jesus.
- I would say, first of all, giving Jesus costs something.
- When we talk about the love of Jesus, it shows us the kind of love that Jesus has.
- Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.
- He's praying for you. He's praying for me.

3 Why Does God Love Us? That We Might Have Life

John 3:18; John 6:35; John 6:63

- He who believes in him is not condemned. But he who does not believe is condemned already.
- Jesus does not come to condemn, he comes to save.
- Jesus went to the cross to save people who were condemned. And guess what? That's you and me.

- I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.
- The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life.
- Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

4 The Means by Which We Enjoy God's Love: Faith

John 5:24; John 20:31; John 12:42

- He's using faith in a comprehensive sense.
- These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye may have life in his name.
- If we don't have enough faith to do what Jesus tells us to do, we don't have enough faith to be saved.
- That's what faith is, you see. Trusting the Lord to do what he says.
- They believed. That's what John says, but they wouldn't carry through with it, you see.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you come to the Lord by faith? In an understanding and a comprehension of his will. To be united with Christ in the likeness of his death, to have your sins washed away in the precious blood of God's Son.

MY NOTES