What John 3:16 Teaches Us About Marriage (John 3:16)

Tony Mauck · John 3:16

INTRODUCTION

- Everybody knows John 3.16. Even if they don't know the content, they know those numbers.
- But it also tells us something very important about what love means. What love is. What love does. Even in marriage.
- If I can do something in this vein, in all of my relationships, what God did, our relationships would be better.

1 Love Is Primarily an Act of the Will

Romans 5:8; Mark 6:34; Ephesians 1:5

- We learn that love is primarily an act of the will. And not a feeling or an emotion.
- In this way, God loved, in that he gave his son.
- God demonstrated his love toward us. And that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- So the love described in this passage is a commitment to give and sacrifice.
- Love is expressed in the concrete act of giving.
- The question is not, am I in love with my spouse? The question is, will I do good for my spouse?

2 An Act of Will That Meets the Needs of Another

1 John 4:8; Ephesians 5:1–2; Hosea 3:1

- So we're talking about people who are opposed to Jesus. They are opposed to God. They do not know him, and God loves them.
- Deserving has absolutely nothing to do with it.
- Walk in love just as Christ loved you. And gave himself up for us.
- God gave knowing that most would not reciprocate. Don't make your love contingent.
- What does my spouse need from me? What can I do to enrich and enhance his or her life?
- Regardless of how she does with that same question in relation to me. Quit keeping score.

3 An Act of Will Giving All That It Can

- It's an act of will to meet another's needs by giving all that it can. God gave the supreme gift.
- God did not give an animal for the world, or even a holy person, or even an angel. He gave his son.
- If we're going to imitate John 3 16, then we are going to look at our spouse and will to do good for them.

- This is going to take effort and practice, just as God had to give extreme effort to bring this about for us.
- We must supply what they need.
- It can't be always about you. If it is, you are not mirroring God's love.

THE CHALLENGE

So let's get to work. God loved you in the most extreme way. And that should motivate you to serve Him with all your heart and with all your being.

MY NOTES