

LIFE 2.0

UPGRADING TO ETERNITY

#TMLife2point0 

Part 5: AMAZING LOVE

(Part 21 in the continuing series "Jesus by John")

APPETIZER – Three Kinds of Love

May we love as we have been loved...

- EROS: All take.
- PHILIA: Give & take.
- AGAPE: All give.

For God so loved the world that he gave...

MAIN COURSE – Christ's Death Means Our Life

John 3:16

❖ GOD...

Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Colossians 1:19-20; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 3:16

"Jesus came to earth not in order to change God's mind, but to express God's mind."
~ Gary M. Burge

❖ SO...

houtos

Degree (How much): God loved us intensely (sooo much).
Manner (How): God loved us actively (in this way).

❖ LOVED...

Agapeo = unconditional love; love as self-giving

"Love is active goodwill." (Joseph Fletcher, Moral Philosopher)

Love (agape) is the choice to relate to someone as valuable.

❖ WORLD...

Kosmos = all of humanity (can also mean the world systems)

Any attempt to restrict the word *kosmos* to the elect ignores the clear use of the term throughout the New Testament. God gave his Son for the deliverance of all humanity.
~ Robert H. Mounce, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*

❖ GAVE...

Nothing will work unless you do.
~ Maya Angelou

❖ ONE AND ONLY...

Monogenes = one of a kind (mono+genes)

Not only in John. Early high Christology... **Mark 12:1-12**

Why so many false options? "An enemy has done this." **Matthew 13:24-30**

❖ WHOEVER...

CALVINISM (REFORMED)

T – Total Depravity

U – Unconditional Election

L – Limited Atonement

I – Irresistible Grace

P – Perseverance of Saints

ANABAPTISM (ARMINIAN)

G – God's Broken Image

R – Reborn through Faith

A – Atonement for All

C – Chosen AND Choosing

E – Empowered Grow

John 1:29, 3:17, 6:33; 1 John 2:1

❖ BELIEVES INTO...

Pisteuo eis = to put one's trust into

❖ PERISH...

Apollumi = complete destruction

TAKE OUT – Take a Deep Breath & Roll Up Your Sleeves

John 13:34; 1 John 3:16

FAITH

- Pray
- Read
- Attend
- Talk

LOVE

- Value
- Serve
- Give
- Stop
- Start



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Home Church Questions...

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. How would you define “love”?
2. Who do you love the most in this world? How do you show it?
3. Take time to review Sunday’s message. What stood out to you?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

4. Read **John 3:16**.
 - a. What verse or idea from the text stands out to you? Why?
 - b. How would you respond to someone who asked, “If God loves this world so much, why is it in such a mess?”
 - c. Jesus is God’s “one-of-a-kind” (*monogenes*) Son. No other religions, prophets, gurus offer the salvation that Jesus brings. How would you respond to someone who said Christianity is too exclusive in its beliefs about Jesus?
 - d. Jesus saves us from “perishing”. What is your view of “hell”: 1) The fire that TORTURES forever. 2) The fire that CONSUMES so that people cease to exist. 3) The fire that PURIFIES so that people are eventually fit for heaven. Use Scripture to support your position.
 - e. Whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life. That’s good news – sort of. What about people who don’t believe because they have no opportunity to believe? What about babies who are too young to understand or people with mental disabilities?
 - f. REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK: Why do you think God wants our faith to be a part of our salvation, our spiritual healing? Why not just save everyone through the cross? Why make the whole “whoever believes” business necessary?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

5. God so loved that he gave. Agape acts. What are some ways in your life that you tend to “feel” love but not act, or make symbolic actions that feel like you’re making a difference rather than actually investing your energy, time, and money?
6. How much does this tendency to confuse sentiment with actual love apply to your love for our church? Do you give financially, serve as a volunteer, and invest your time in the needs of people in home church? Is there any of the above you need to grow in? All of these actions become a tangible blessing to real people. Talk about how you can love others both outside and inside our church better.

Quotes...

Jesus Christ came to save all humanity through means of himself – all, I say, who through him are born again to God.
~ Irenaeus (130-202 AD)

Jesus Christ came to earth not in order to change God’s mind, but express God’s mind.
~ Gary M. Burge, The NIV Application Commentary

God is known in this action because God is action – the action of love reaching out to the unlovely and the unlovable.
~ Leslie Newbigin, The Light Has Come

John 3:16 deserves underlining as the heart of the Gospel of John.
~ Frederick Dale Bruner, The Gospel of John

The essence of the saving message is made unmistakably plain, in language which people of all races, cultures and times can grasp, and so effectively is it set forth in these words that many more, probably, have found the way of life through them than through any other biblical text.
~ F.F. Bruce, The gospel of John

In verse 15, the source of eternal life is Jesus’ crucifixion; in verse 16, the source of eternal life is God’s love, and the combination of these two verses helps us to see how Jesus’ death and God’s love are related.
~ Gail R. O’Day & Susan E. Hylen, John

In Christ all boundaries had been broken down. God’s love extends to every member of the human race. He died for all.
~ Robert H. Mounce, The Expositor’s Bible Commentary

Amazing love! How can it be?
That Thou my God shouldst die for me.
~ Charles Wesley (1738)

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.
~ **John 3:16**