

# GOD'S GREAT LOVE

*JOHN 3:16–21*

# BACKGROUND: WHO WAS NICODEMUS?

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*He was “a Pharisee” (3:1).*

*He was “the teacher of Israel” (3:10).*

*He was “a ruler of the Jews” (3:1),  
a member of the Sanhedrin.*

“This man [Nicodemus]  
came to Jesus  
by night....”

— *John 3:2*

*Scripture Reading*

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JOHN 3:16–21

# THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S LOVE

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# THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S LOVE

*JOHN 3:16–21*

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1. The motive is love. — *“For God so loved...”*

“...It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

— *Deuteronomy 7:6–8*

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

— *1 John 4:7–8*

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1. The motive is love. — *“For God so loved...”*
2. The object is surprising. — *“...the world”*

“[The world] does not so much refer to bigness as to badness. In John’s vocabulary, *world* is primarily the moral order in willful and culpable rebellion against God. In John 3:16 God’s love in sending the Lord Jesus is to be admired not because it is extended to so big a thing as the world, but to so bad a thing; not to so many people, as to such wicked people.”

— *D. A. Carson*

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3. The cost is immeasurable. — *“...that he gave his only Son”*

“[God] said [to Abraham], ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’”

— *Genesis 22:2*

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4. The consequences are unimaginably dreadful.  
— *“...that whoever believes in him should not perish”*



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4. The consequences are unimaginably dreadful.  
— *“...that whoever believes in him should not perish”*
5. The blessings are eternally satisfying.  
— *“...but have eternal life”*

# CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS

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*Rejoice in God's love.*

# CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS

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*Rejoice in God's love.*

*Share God's love.*

# CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS

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*Rejoice in God's love.*

*Share God's love.*

*Keep pursuing the Light.*