

GOD'S LOVE: OUR DELIGHT AND DUTY

John 3:17

Introduction / Review:

The Illustration (John 3:14)

The Application (John 3:14b-15)

The Explanation (John 3:16)

1. God's Love, not His Justice, is the Heart of the Gospel

A) That doesn't mean that justice isn't a part of the gospel

> Rather, our sin and God's justice are the necessary context for the gospel – the good news

> The world had already been judged by God – guilty! (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 1-3, esp. 3:23)

Just as the bronze serpent lifted up on a pole was given to remedy a death sentence not issue one. (John 3:14)

So Jesus had come to remedy the death sentence for the sons and daughters of Adam (Romans 5:15-19; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

B) Jesus did not come to proclaim God's judgment on the world but to reveal His love for those already condemned

> This is more than semantics

> Although justice is not the heart of the gospel it is definitely the context for the gospel.

It is important for us to tell the world about the love of God – the heart of the gospel

But if they have no awareness of their need of a Savior the message is at best distorted.

All too often we pronounce the cure to people who have no awareness of their desperate condition – we cast pearls before swine.

C) The gospel is good news because God has come to earth

> Not just to show us how to live – although He does do that.

> But to make it possible for the condemned to be saved (John 3:17b)

2. There is Great Delight in God's Love

A) The Love of God delivers us from the penalty of sin

> In Christ I am no longer condemned (Romans 8:1)

We'll come back to this next week in John 3:18

> In Christ I am justified – declared righteous (Romans 5:1)

My sins imputed to Him and paid for on Calvary

His righteousness imputed to me and all of the attendant blessings (Ephesians 1:3-7)

B) The Love of God delivers us from the power of sin (Romans 6:17-18)

> I am no longer a slave to sin

C) The Love of God will deliver us from the presence of sin (2 Peter 3:13)

> Even though I am freed from enslavement to sin I find myself drawn to it

And when I choose to sin it brings guilt, shame, and harm to myself and others

> One day, Jesus will intervene in human history again, doing away with every vestige of sin

Not only will my desires and actions be forever righteous

In a redeemed creation there will be no more sickness, pain, tears, or death

3. Our Duty in Response to God's Love

A) Love Him

> Recognizing our sinful offense against Him

> Repenting of our sin against Him

> Receiving His gift of love – salvation in His Son Jesus Christ

> Loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Matthew 22:37-38)

B) Love those whom He loves

> Our neighbor (Matthew 22:39)

> Our enemies (Matthew 5:43-45)

> One another (1 John 4:7-8, 20-21)