

**The Gospel—Part 2**  
**John 3:16**

I. **God's L\_\_\_\_\_:**

- a. **love = agapē** (ἀγάπη) = unconditional, selfless action for someone else's benefit
  - i. **agapē** is **U**\_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 4:10)
  - ii. **agapē** is for the **U**\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 5:8; Titus 3:3-5)
  - iii. **agapē** is NOT a Feeling; it is an **A**\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 13; 4-7)
- b. **Agapē** love is at the core of God's character (Ex. 34:6-7a)
- c. Jesus' Disciples are saved for His glory and sanctified into His image, therefore they should emulate His love (1 John 4:8)

II. **Jesus' S\_\_\_\_\_:**

- a. But God is more than just Compassionate, Gracious, and Loving; He is also Righteous, Holy, and Just (Ex. 34:7b)
- b. Because He is a Just God, everyone's sins must be paid for; either by them personally in eternal Hell, or by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord!
- c. Motivated by His great love, God ***gave His only begotten Son*** (cf. John 3:17)
  - i. **gave** does not refer to Jesus' incarnating birth, but instead to His Sacrificial Death as the propitiation for our sins (cf. 1 Peter 1:17-19)
- d. Jesus is the Lamb of God, pure without a spot of blemish of sin, therefore His sacrifice is able to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29; cf. Ex. 12; Lev. 22)

III. **Man's R\_\_\_\_\_:**

- a. Believe is mentioned in 4 times in just verses 16 & 18.
- b. The truth of Believing in Jesus has been twisted and perverted by the evil one himself, convincing people it is ONLY:
  - i. An intellectual affirmation of facts about Jesus
  - ii. Praying a certain prayer, raising a hand, walking an aisle, or getting baptized
- c. Believing IN Jesus involves both the heart and the head:
  - i. First, it is more than just an intellectual assent to some facts, it's a supernatural transformation; a spiritual heart transplant (cf. Ezek. 36:26-27; Col. 1:13; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 5:1; 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:4, 18)
  - ii. Second, it involves a level of believing that Jesus is your **Savior**, that it creates an uncompromising level of trust to follow Jesus as your **Lord**.
    1. **believes = pisteuō** (πιστεύω) = to believe, **implying trust** (Matt. 24:23; Luke 1:20; 1 Cor. 11:18; James 2:19; Mark 16:13, 14); **trust**, faith, believe to the extent of **complete trust** (Matt. 18:6; Rom. 4:3; 1 Peter 2:6; Mark 16:17)
    2. **believes** is a present active participle that refers to an initial action that leads to a continuing ongoing action.
- d. Therefore, not everyone who makes a profession of faith or says that they believe IN Jesus is actually saved; it is only those who persevere until the end (Matt. 13:3-9; 18-23; 25:23; 7:23)