

John 3:16

The Most Well-Known Passage in the Bible

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. KJV

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. NKJV

Step back in your mind into 1st century Christianity when you hear the offer of salvation in Christ to 'whoever.' For some this could not mean the Samaritans or Gentiles, certainly not the immoral people of that day. Is the passage suggesting that prostitutes or drunkards could have their sins forgiven? God is not saying this includes the Romans, is he? That is exactly what this passage is teaching. Christ extends forgiveness, therefore a relation with the Father, therefore eternal life to all that come to Him in faith. That is the promise of 'whoever'.

What sticks out about John 3:16? Wouldn't you agree it is **Love!**
Let's explore this by asking some basic questions.

1. How was this love demonstrated? By God giving us His Son
2. In what way did God give us Son? By having him die on our behalf.
3. What type of death did Jesus face? He was beaten, abused and crucified, he hung on a cross for 6 hours.

Again, What sticks out about John 3:16? Love!

- Imagine the disciples, what a nightmare for them. The fear, the shame and the hiding, it was a couple of very difficult days for them.
- What about Mary, Jesus' mom? She witnessed her son's suffering, she watched him die a cruel death.

There was a **great deal of suffering and pain in this love.**

God's love for the world involved a huge amount of suffering for others.

Didn't God love his disciples? What about his love for Mary and His own Son? Of course God loved them.

Wrapped up God's love at times is a great deal of pain and suffering because He has the entire picture, God has all the information. This means even in the greatest demonstration of love is pain and suffering. What if God loves us so much that He has a higher goal and a better plan than just our short-term comfort?

When God allows pain and suffering he has a **reason** for it. A **reason** we may never be able to comprehend on this side of heaven, therefore **we worship him by trusting in his reason.** We are able to do this because of who God is, we are able to place full assurance in his attributes.

God is completely sovereign

God is infinite in wisdom

God is perfect in love

By the way it is very important to read the rest of the chapter.

John 3:16-21 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ **He who believes** in Him is not condemned; but **he who does not believe** is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." NKJV