

REAL LOVE BEYOND IMAGINATION

John 3:9-17 Rev Thomas Parrish

Most people have no idea what real life changing eternal love is all about. Let's examine Jesus' definition of real love that is beyond our human imagination.

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

Nicodemus' viewpoint is a great reminder to us:

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

**There is only one message we must focus on, cling to and be united over:
JESUS ALONE IS LORD AND SAVIOR, THE ONLY WAY TO ETERNITY.**

This is why I urge you over and over to keep your focus on our mission, our purpose, which is one of the most honest, truthful, accurate, precise statements of Christianity:

TO KNOW JESUS,
(Surrender to Jesus, depend on him alone)
TO GROW IN JESUS,
(Talk like Jesus, think like Jesus, act like Jesus)
TO SHARE JESUS WITH OTHERS.
(Intentionally offer invitations and opportunities to others to encounter Jesus)

¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

This is what Jesus is saying to Nicodemus. Jesus is speaking from an eternal perspective. Nicodemus doesn't understand at all. Jesus says, if you cannot add two plus two how can you know about the work and mission of the Messiah? When we are "born again" we still have **free will** to surrender to Jesus or to ignore him and do our own thing.

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except ME who descended from heaven, I am the Son of Man.

Book of Daniel 7:13 probably provides more directly relevant background to this term: Son of Man. In his vision, Daniel sees "*one like a son of man,*" that is, one who is apparently human, yet, this individual was "*coming with the clouds of heaven.*"

He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence (v. 13). "*He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and people of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed*" (v. 14).

*¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

So, it is also a story of faith: **When the people looked by faith, they were saved.**
“the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

The difference between perishing and living, and between condemnation and salvation, is faith in Jesus Christ.

All of these verses brings us to the most famous verses in the Bible. ¹⁶ **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

Let’s reread John 3:16-17 and personalize it to truly get the point of love that is beyond our imagination.

¹⁶ “For God so loved me arrogant and rude and uncaring as I can be, that he gave his only Son Jesus for me, that if I surrender to him I will not be flipped off, ignored thrown away but have an eternal relationship with him. ¹⁷ For our incredible loving God did not send his Son, Jesus who is God the Son, to condemn us, put us in our place or throw us away...but in order that we might fall in love with him, be saved and live forever through him.

John 3:16-17 is Jesus’ love letter to you and me!

What is Jesus **ATTITUDE** toward you and me?

Let’s put John 3:16 into modern street language.

For God so loved me, a disfigured, ugly, self-centered, rebellious, pain in the neck that he took the initiative, in God the Son Jesus, to come looking for me, wrapping his arms and his own shed blood around me, so that I might live, have peace trusting in him alone and be given the gift of eternal life.

JESUS REALLY LOVES ME.

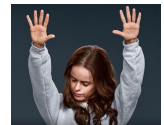
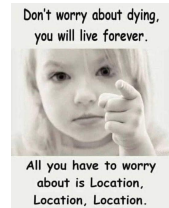
JESUS REALLY DIED FOR ALL MY SINS.

JESUS INVITS ME TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIM.

All he wants me to do is surrender, surrender, surrender to him every day for the rest of my natural life.

Here is the greatest most important question of all time: Will you totally surrender to Jesus?

PICK UP THE 21 DAY CHALLENGE TODAY ON THE WAY OUT AT THE INFORMATION DESK AND READ ONE CHAPTER A DAY, ANSWER ONE QUESTION EACH DAY, AND TAKE ONE CHALLENGE EACH DAY. THIS IS JESUS’ LOVE LETTER TO YOU!



21 DAY
CHALLENGE