

Reflection Questions: John 3:16 (Part 1)

For the message, "For God So Loved The World" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on December 1, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray: Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish, but have eternal life."

A summary of the message: We were created to know and experience the deep, deep love of God.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Jesus highlights the love of God in this passage. Indeed, the teaching that "God is love" (1 John 3:16) is basic to the message of Jesus. Do you believe that this needs to be emphasized more by Christians today, or less? If more, why? If less, what pitfalls concern you?
- In the message on this text, the pastor quoted an author by the name of Rankin Wilbourne who said, "The greatest treasure of the gospel [i.e., the Good News about Jesus], greater than any other benefit the gospel brings, is the gift of God himself."
 - Why is it a supreme act of God's love that he opens a way for us through Christ to relationship with Himself, the One who is by definition love? Or to put it another way, why is it good news that we get the treasure of God himself?
- In Romans 5:5, we are told that, "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
 - Do you find it easy or difficult to bask in the beams of God's love? How would your life look differently if I were to really live out this reality? When I forget that God is love and desires to bring me into a loving relationship with him, what lies fill that vacuum?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What comes to your mind when you imagine a group of Jesus' followers embodying the Good News of the love of God in their neighborhoods and workplaces of our city?
- How does this text help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? In other words, what would a community who deeply imbibed the love of God look like? What would be the aroma of this community? How would we know that we are being transformed by our God who is love?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- Do you think people in your spheres of influence believe that God is loving? Is this something they would take for granted, or would this be good news to them? How might our culture distort this teaching?
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? What kind of new life in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?