

Reflection Questions: John 3:16 (Part 2)

For the message, "That He Gave His Only Son" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on December 8, 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: Because God so loved the world in giving us His Son, God is both an astonishingly self-sacrificing God and an absurdly generous God.

QUESTIONS

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

- Someone might think that it's not surprising that Jesus would teach that God loves us because, quite frankly, we are such lovable people. How does understanding ourselves as a part of a rebellious human race serve to correct this notion and serve to highlight the gracious love of God?
- These words of Jesus help us to understand that God's gift of His Son to be a Savior always ties our understanding of God's love to the cross of Jesus. Why is the good news of God's love inextricably tied to the good news of the Cross of Jesus? In what ways can that be understood as good news?
- In commenting on the gift of God's love to us in His Son, Jesus, the Apostle Paul said, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). What are some implications of understanding this "glorious logic of heaven" as Pastor John Piper calls it?

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

- If Jesus is the greatest gift that God could give us, what would it look like for a community of faith like Mercy Hill to be a living expression of this? In other words, how would someone tell that we really believed this? What might be some of the things that would get in the way, or get us off track?

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

- How do you think this truth of God giving the world a Savior help people in our city understand that the core message of Christianity is not about what we do, but about what God has done? How might this clarify misconceptions that people in your family, workplace, and neighborhood have about what Christianity is about?