



SERMON PREP SERIES · TOPICAL OUTLINE

The Greatest Love

Because God demonstrated His great love by giving His Son, we should believe in Christ, receive His salvation, and reflect His love to others.

Text	Subject	Points
John 3:16	Love	3

INTRODUCTION

The Heart of the Gospel, In One Verse

John 3:16 is one of the most familiar verses in the Bible. In one verse, Jesus presents the heart of the gospel and gives us a powerful picture of God's love — the source of His love, the demonstration of His love, and our response to His love.

I. The Source of God's Love

*"For God so loved the world"***A. God is the source of true love.**

- Love originates in the character of God.

1 JOHN 4:8

"God is love." Love isn't just something God does — it's who He is.

B. God loves the world.

- His love is not limited by nationality, race, social position, or past failures.

C. God's love is undeserved.

- We do not earn God's love through our goodness — it demonstrates His grace and mercy toward sinful humanity.

→ *We have seen the source of this great love — God Himself. But genuine love is demonstrated through action. John 3:16 tells us exactly how God demonstrated His love.*

II. The Demonstration of God's Love

*"That He gave His one and only Son"***A. God's love gives.**

- God did not merely say that He loved the world — He demonstrated His love by giving His Son.

B. God's love sacrifices.

- The cross is the supreme demonstration of God's sacrificial love.

C. God's love provides salvation.

- God gave His Son so that humanity could be saved.

ROMANS 5:8

God demonstrated His love for us "while we were still sinners" — His love came first.

→ *God has shown us the greatness of His love by giving His Son. But a gift does us no good if we refuse to receive it. Therefore, we must consider how we should respond to God's love.*

III. Our Response to God's Love

"Whoever believes in Him"

A. We must believe in Jesus Christ.

- God's invitation requires a personal response of faith, not just intellectual agreement.

B. We receive eternal life.

- Those who believe in Christ "shall not perish but have eternal life" — God's gracious gift.

C. We reflect God's love to others.

- Having received God's love, we should demonstrate it in our relationships and share it with others.

WHY IT MATTERS

Point III turns the sermon outward — from what God has done to what we do next. Don't rush the invitation.

CONCLUSION

God's Love Is Not Merely An Idea

God loved us, God demonstrated that love by giving His Son, and God invites us to respond through faith in Jesus Christ. John 3:16 gives us three simple truths, and a clear progression that's easy to preach and easy to carry home:

I The Source — God loved.

II The Demonstration — God gave.

III The Response — We believe.

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Have you personally responded to God's love by believing in Jesus Christ?

And if you have received His love, can others see that love demonstrated through your life?