

This was the Sermon for Easter Weekend 2010.

***Sermon Notes -***

**AN INCONVENIENT LOVE**

John 3:16 (NKJV)

- Question – “What is my definition of love?”
- Question – “What is the greatest expression of love I’ve ever experienced?”
- “For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 NKJV)
- The greatest expression of love ever given to mankind was the Heavenly Father’s gift of His son, Jesus Christ, to the world!

**THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT:**

**GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS INCREDIBLE**

- “For God so loved the world.” (John 3:16a)
- The 1st century Greeks words for “love” included the words:
  - “Eros” - which described a physical kind of love
  - “Phileo” - which described a friendship type of love
  - “Agape” - which described a supernatural, sacrificial type of love

**We Learn From John 3:16 That:**

**· GOD IS THE ORIGINATOR OF AGAPE LOVE**

- “For God so loved the world . . .”  
(John 3:16a NKJV)
- God can’t help but love people because He is the essence and epitome of love.
- “God is love.” (1 John 4:8 NKJV)

**· PEOPLE ARE THE OBJECTIVE OF AGAPE LOVE**

- “For God so loved the world . . .”  
(John 3:16a NKJV)
- God loves the people of the world universally (He loves everyone) and personally (He loves everyone).
- Many people find it difficult to believe God can love them unconditionally, but there has never been a time when He didn’t love us or want a close relationship with us.
- The Lord - “I have loved you, My people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to Myself.” (Jeremiah 31:3 NLT)

**THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT:**

**GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS INDISPUTABLE**

- “For God so love the world, He gave His only begotten Son.” (John 3:16 NKJV)

**As A Result Of His Love For Us:**

· GOD GAVE HIS SON DECISIVELY

- Love is more than an emotion – it is a choice or decision.

- “You show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.”

(1 John 3:18 CEV)

- The greatness of one’s love is determined by sacrifices they are willing to make to demonstrate their love.

· GOD GAVE HIS SON UNIQUELY

- The gift of God’s Son was the greatest and most sacrificial gift ever given – because of the uniqueness and greatness of Jesus.

· GOD GAVE HIS SON SACRIFICIALLY

- “He (God) did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all.” (Romans 8:32 NIV)

- We see God’s love through different scenarios and relationships – but the greatest picture of God’s love is Jesus on Calvary’s cross, paying the penalty for our sins.

- “God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (Romans 5:8 NLT)

· Not only did Jesus die for us, but He rose mightily and miraculously from the grave in order to bring us abundant and eternal life!

THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT:

GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS INDISPENSABLE

· “For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

God’s Love Is The Only Power That:

· REACHES TO ALL HUMANITY

The Bible teaches us that:

1. The Lord loves Little Children

- Jesus – “Let the little children come to Me . . . for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14 NIV)

2. The Lord loves Big Sinners

- The Pharisees – “(Jesus) welcomes sinners and eats with them.” (Luke 15:2 NIV)

3. The Lord loves His Greatest Enemies

- Jesus – “Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:44-45 NLT)

· REDEEMS US FOR HEAVEN

- “Man is destined to die once, and after that the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27 NIV)

- We all have an eternal destination – heaven or hell.

- Jesus – “I am going to prepare a place for you. . . When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.” (John 14:2-3 NLT)

· When we respond to God’s “love gift” of His Son, He brings:

1. Forgiveness to our lives

- “God . . . is so rich in kindness that He purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are forgiven.” (Ephesians 1:6-7 NLT)

## 2. Freedom to our lives

- “There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin . . .”

(Romans 8:1-2 NLT)

## 3. Fulfillment to our lives

- Jesus – “I came to give life--life in all its fullness.” (John 10:10 NCV)

· Question – “Why don’t many people respond to God’s incredible love and Son?”

- Sometimes people don’t respond to the Lord’s love and offers because of busyness, depression, hurt, ignorance, laziness, pride, selfishness, unbelief, etc.

· The God of this universe wants everyone to experience His love and abundant and eternal life by receiving His Son, Jesus, as the Lord and Savior of their lives.

- “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:17 NKJV)

· Question – “What steps do I need to take to respond to God’s love and Son?”

- I need to surrender my life to Jesus and make Him Lord of my life

- I need to come back to church and participate in 40 DAYS OF LOVE

- I need to acknowledge Jesus as my Savior and Lord by being baptized

- I need to get involved through Celebration’s ministry in helping the needy

- I need to connect with other Christians in a Life Group (Bible study) so that I can grow to become the person the Lord has created and called me to be

April 1st – 4th, 2010