



Go!
Love Demonstrated
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John 3:1-17 (NLT) - There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

⁴ "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? ¹¹ I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. ¹² But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

1 John 2:15 (NLT) - Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

"There is no contradiction between this prohibition and the fact that God does love it. Christians are not to love the world with the selfish love of participation; God loves the world with the selfless, costly love of redemption."

-D.A. Carson

**God's love manifested as sacrificial intervention that led to eternal redemption.
Our love is manifested as sacrificial intervention that leads to eternal redemption.**

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about how God's love manifested as sacrificial intervention that led to eternal redemption; therefore our love is manifested as sacrificial intervention that leads to eternal redemption. As you reflect on this, what do you think that would look like in your life? How do you demonstrate sacrificial love the intervenes in people's lives like God did for us? How have you seen others do so?

It can be easy to underestimate the impact, the value, of manifest love. We can sometimes become convinced that this is all more complicated than that. That love cannot possibly be close to enough. And yet, here we see and hear about the magnificent gift that God gave to us and all of a sudden, love seems like it might just be a really big deal.

Take a moment to read 1 John 3:11-24. As you read this what stands out? What significance does John seem to assign to acts of great love?

In this text, John points out that love is not only something we are to show to others, but that it is also the sign of being alive in Christ. It's not just a thing that we do, it is something that comes from us being truly alive. It is the fruit of the tree of life that Christ brings into our lives.

Take some time to consider all that this means for us, how we can demonstrate the love of God to others, and what it means to love like God loves us.