

Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may  
have *life*

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***Love at Work***

John 3:15-18

- *Who was “John”?*
  - A. *Apostle John – one of the 12 disciples of Jesus (not John the Baptist).*
  - B. *Fisherman by trade - partner with his brother, James, his father, Zebedee, and Peter. (Mark 1:19-20),*
  - C. *Author of:*
    1. *Book of John.*
    2. *1, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John*
    3. *Revelation*



1. John 3:16 “For God **so loved** the world that **He gave ...**”

A. The “so what?” of God’s love.

B. Love cannot be expressed (a verb) unless it already exists as a **reality** (a noun).

- John 21 – “Simon, do you **love** me?” “Yes Lord, you know that I **love** [reality] you.” “**Feed my sheep [the action].**”

C. **God’s love is a reality.**

1. 1 John 4:8 – “God is love” [noun].

2. Love must be a noun before it can become a verb,

- God acts **out of who He is**, His nature.
- His love **preexists** His **action**.
- When He acts, **He put His love to work.**



1. “God **so loved** the world ...” What does that really mean to you? (cont)

C. The **reality** of God’s love is that God has “**love feelings**” for me that move him into action. (No, not Hallmark!!). In Scripture:

1. God is not cold, distant, an idea or a simple fact.

2. **God sees me.** Nicodemus. John 3

1. Hagar. Gen 16:13

2. Zaccheus. Luke 19

3. Mary, Martha, Lazarus. John 11.

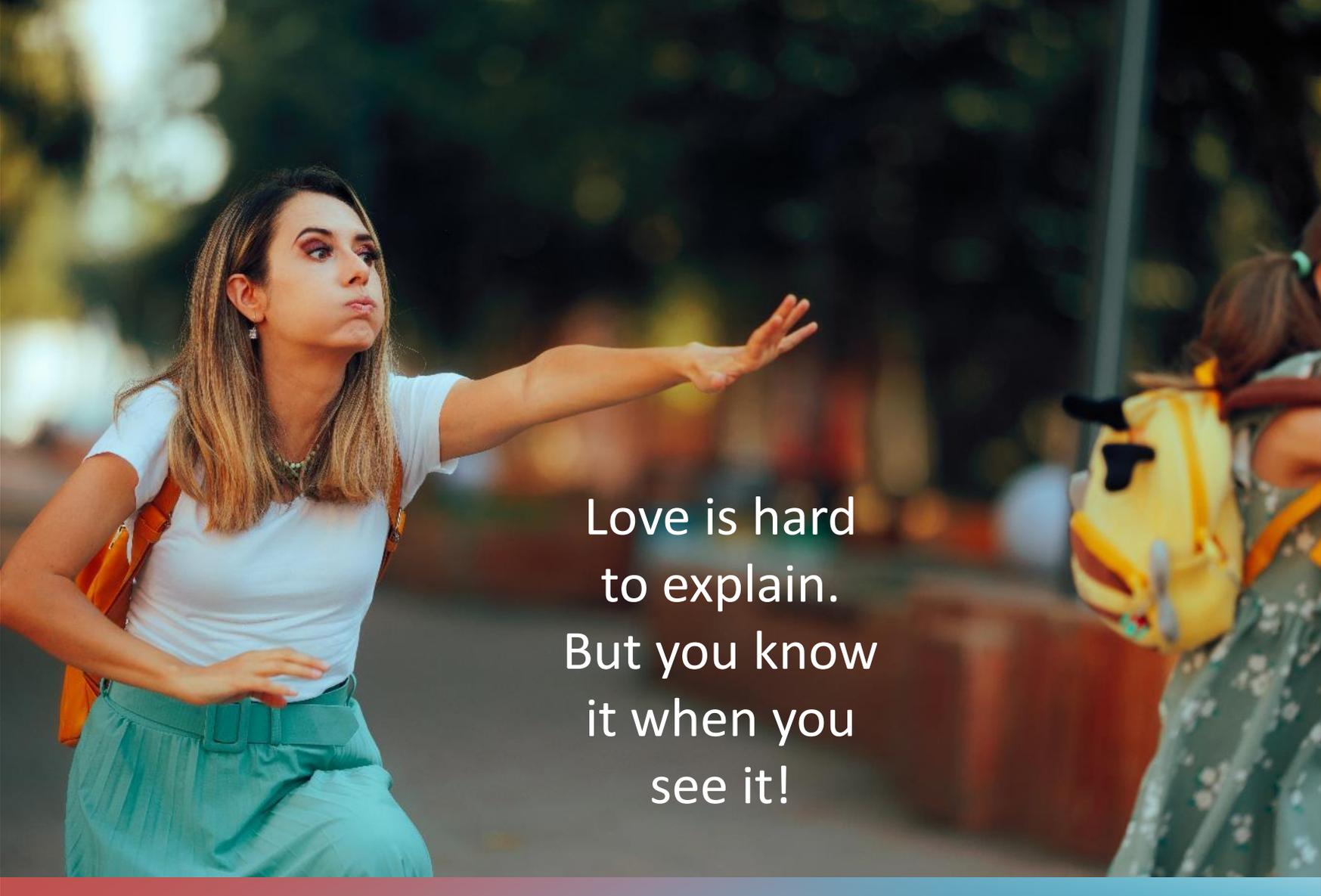
3. **God is for me** – Rom 8:31, Ps 118:6, 56:9

4. God’s love is often expressed in the context of a loving family.





Love is hard  
to explain.  
But you know  
it when you  
see it!



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**Love is hard  
to explain.  
But you  
know it  
when you  
see it - NOT!**



*God's capacity to love is beyond our capacity to comprehend His love (1<sup>st</sup> pic). Eph 3:14-19*

2. *God's love is persistent and unjudging. It moves Him to meet us where we are, despite who we are, what we have done, or that we are not looking for Him.*

A. *John 1:14; Luke 5:1-11; John 21:1-11*

B. *He knows:*

1. *My name before I know his: Nathaniel. Moses, Zaccheus, Samuel...*

2. *My spiritual condition. Jn 3:19-20; Lost. Luke 19:10*

3. *My DNA. Ex 3:11*

4. *My history including my actions.*

5. *My ancestor's deeds and their impact on me*

6. *My wounds, pains, and physical condition*

C. *God cannot not do something about me. Why? Bc he loves me! Love "suffers with"!*





***Love and compassion  
are often paired in  
Scripture. To have one  
is to have the other.  
Matt 9:36, Mk 1:40-  
42; Matt 11:28-30***

*How can God's love matter to someone who is unaware of judgment? Who believes that one's actions in this life don't matter in the end?*

- *Jn. 3:17-18 "For God **did not send the Son** into the world to **judge** the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup> "He who believes in Him is **not judged**; he who does not believe **has been judged already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*



Rom. 5:3-6 *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,<sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame [does not disappoint], because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*



3. *Because God loves me, God gave... His love for me put God to work to save me.*

A. *Gift –*

1. *God's love put Him to work.*

2. *He gave a gift - must be opened to be received.*  
*John 3:15*

3. *Free to us but costly to Him.*

• *Love quantified by cost embraced.*

4. *Has God's love put you work?*



## 4. *That whosoever believes... Believes “what”?*

*That:*

- A. *Jesus was an historical person as Scripture (and history) says He was.*
- B. *Jesus was God’s Son born in human flesh as Scripture claims.*
- C. *God’s purpose and plan in Jesus’s death:*
  - 1. *To “save us” from judgement, the consequences of our sin*
  - 2. *To forgive us of our sins by dying in our place.*
  - 3. *To conquer death by rising from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.*



- *Call to Action:*  
*Are you ready to put your name in the blank?*

*To summarize John 3:16:*

1. *God so loved \_\_\_\_\_.*
2. *That He gave His only Son, Jesus, for \_\_\_\_\_.*
3. *That if \_\_\_\_\_ believes in Jesus's sacrificial death on the cross as the means whereby \_\_\_\_\_ is forgiven of his/her sins;*
  - *So that he/she surrenders his/her life to Jesus.*
4. *Then \_\_\_\_\_ will be "born again," that is, born of the Spirit of God (forgiven)!*

