

Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may
have *life*

Love at Work - Part 2

John 3:15-18

- *Notice how many times the word “judge” (in any form) is used in today’s passage?*
- *Jn. 3:16-19 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to **judge** the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.¹⁸ "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.¹⁹ "This is the **judgment**, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. (NAU)*



1. *In John 3:16-19, God gives us a glimpse of our spiritual life-journey from beginning to end, and the eternal destiny that is ours depending upon what we do with Jesus.*

*Rev. 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a **door standing open in heaven**, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, **and I will show you what must take place after these things.**"*





Have you removed “judgment” from the nature of a loving God? What would our text look like if we took judgment out? If you leave judgment in, is the thought of it worth thinking twice about dismissing it all together? Ever been down a one-way street the wrong way...?

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him ~~shall not perish, but have~~ [has] eternal life. ¹⁷ “For God ~~did not send~~ [sent] the Son into the world to ~~judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him~~ [save thee world]. ¹⁸ “~~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. ¹⁹ “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.~~





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- *What if we used our own parenting models to understand the reality of spiritual judgment?*

- A. *How do you practice 'judgement' in your home? What words or phrases do you use?*
 - *Correction; discipline; timeout;*
 - *Grounded; no recess; cell phone; Xbox*
 - *No more baseball*

- B. *Workplace?*
 - *90-day probation*
 - *No raise or delayed*
 - *Promotion given to another*

- C. *Why would we expect God to practice otherwise?*



2. Judgment is a **reality** just like God's love is a **reality**; both are real or neither are real. If there is no judgment for my deeds what does the love of God save me from?

- Jn. 3:16-18 “¹⁶ For God so loved [**reality**] the world that He gave His only ... Son ...that whoever believes ... **should not perish [reality]** ¹⁷ For God **did not send the Son** into the world to **judge** the world, but that the world **might be saved** through Him. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is **not judged [reality]**; he who does not believe **has been judged already [reality]**, because he has **not believed [reality]** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- John 3:34



- *What is judged when God assesses you and me at EOL? Deeds? Something else? Why can't God just **excuse Himself** from practicing it?*
 - A. *What is judged?* A person's **spiritual nature**, as revealed by their life actions and heart, all of which are a "tell" for what they did with Jesus. John 3:3, Eph 2:1, Col 2:1, John 5:24
 1. **Assessment:** God sees all and knows us. J 3:16 – "For God so loved the world..."
 2. **Objective standard:** the bible. John 12:48.
 3. **Who is judged?** Every person. J 3:16
 - B. **Spiritual nature** determines what God does at EOL. i.e., judgment day:
 1. **Reject Jesus:** God judges us for our sins.
 2. **Receive Jesus.** Not judged. Jesus has already been judged in my place.



3. *Most people do not understand their spiritual condition (nature) at birth. Or why we need “saving” in the first place. No wonder being “born again” (John 3:3) is an irrelevant phrase to most.*

A. *Jesus puts it this way:*

1. *Not good or bad, immoral, or irresponsible.*
2. *Why does “faith” save me?*

B. *Rather:*

1. *Empty, something missing, is this all there is? Isaiah 55, Zaccheus, Nicodemus, Matthew, rich young ruler.*
2. *Sick (vs healthy) but worthy of saving. Luke 5:31*
3. *Lost (vs found) but worthy of finding. Luke 15 - lost sheep, lost coin, lost son.*

C. *Paul puts it this way:*

1. *Dead (vs alive). Eph 2:1, Col 1:13*



How would you describe this pet? Do you think she is valued by someone? Is this a “bad” dog or a “lost” dog?



4. *God cannot excuse Himself from practicing judgment. God is bound by His own Word. Only God can hold God accountable.*

A. *The one who rejects Jesus:*

- *Jn. 12:48 The one **who rejects me** and does not receive my words has a judge; the **word that I have spoken will judge him** on the last day.*

B. *The EOL, “last day” judgment?*

- *The day that every person stands before God.*
- *The lost person to eternal darkness, Hell (3:19 – the **place where God is not**, already **chosen while living**)*
- *The believer to eternal life in the presence of Christ.*
 - *John 5:24. ... passed out of death into life.*



5. *God reveals Grace in John 3:16. He gives Jesus to me. He is the door **standing open** in heaven. I go through that door by turning my life over to Jesus, today, by believing in what He has done on the cross to forgive me of my sins, today, and by inviting His Spirit to be “born” in me, today. In doing so, I bypass judgment.*

A. *Gift of forgiveness –*

1. *Must **be opened** to be received. John 3:16*

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

• ***Love quantified by cost embraced.***

3. *Not because you are good or bad. But because you are worth it to God.*

B. *Are you ready to respond to the gift of the love of God in Jesus?*





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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)!*



- *Who was “John”?*
 - A. *Apostle John –*
 - *one of the 12 disciples of Jesus (not John the Baptist).*
 - *Refers to himself as the “disciple whom Jesus loved”*
 - B. *Fisherman by trade –*
 - *partner with his brother, James, his father, Zebedee, and Peter. (Mark 1:19-20),*
 - C. *Author of --*
 1. *“gospel” of John.*
 2. *1, 2nd, 3rd John*
 3. *Revelation*

