

^[14] *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,¹ even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ^[15] that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. ^[16] For God so loved the world, that He gave His unique Son, that whoever believes in Him should 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 should be saved through Him.”*

[John 3:14-17]

John 3:16! Such a powerful and hope filled promise. Herein you learn of the *GREATNESS* of God's *LOVE* for you. God *LOVED* the whole world, even in their great sinfulness. Because of God's *LOVE*, He *“GAVE His UNIQUE Son, that whoever believes into Him should not perish, but have eternal life”!*

You have probably not heard John 3:16 worded in this way before. However, *“UNIQUE”* is one of the meanings of the Greek adjective μονογενής (monogenes).² It comes from combining the Greek adjective μόνος (monos) which has the meanings of ‘unique’, ‘only’, ‘alone’, or ‘one of a kind’; together with the Greek verb γίνομαι (ginomai) which means ‘to cause to be’ that is ‘to gen-erate’.

Only John uses μονογενής (monogenes) to describe the *UNIQUE* relationship of Jesus the Son to God the Father. This relationship presents Jesus as the *UNIQUE ONE*, the *ONLY ONE* generated from God through the Holy Spirit [Luke 1:35].

When the Holy Spirit moved John to write in John 3:16 that,

God so LOVED the world, that He GAVE His UNIQUE Son, that whoever believes into Him should not perish, but HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

The Holy Spirit was here moving John to say that God did not wait for you to love Him. No, God *LOVING* the world made the first move. God chose to *“LOVE (you) FIRST”* [1 John 4:19]! *WE* did not know the *FULLNESS* of God's *LOVE* until we saw the *LOVE* of God hanging on the Cross in the body of Jesus. It was not until we saw the *LOVE* that had no sin [Hebrews 4:15] take our sin upon Himself and die in our place that we first began to understand what *LOVE TRULY IS!*

Listen to how the Holy Spirit moved John to say it in 1 John 4:8-10.

^[8] *The ONE NOT LOVING DOES NOT KNOW GOD, because GOD IS LOVE. ^[9] In this THE LOVE OF GOD WAS MADE APPARENT among us because GOD HAS SENT His UNIQUE SON into the world, that (you) MAY LIVE through HIM. ^[10] IN THIS IS LOVE, not that (you) loved God, but that HE (first) LOVED (you) and SENT HIS SON TO BE the RECONCILIATION for (your) SINS.*

In Romans 5:5 (you) are taught that *“hope does not disappoint”*. Why? It is because *“THE LOVE OF GOD has been poured out within (your) heart(s) through the Holy Spirit Who was given to (you)”*.

Then in Romans 8:35-36 you are asked a question. That question is,

^[35] *Who will separate (you) from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution,*

¹ Numbers 21:4-9.

² “Unique” is the Greek adjective μονογενής (monogenes), Strong's Greek dictionary number 3439. It comes from combining μόνος (monos), Strong's Greek adjective number 3441 together with γίνομαι (ginomai) Strong's Greek verb 1096

or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

Romans 8:37-39 then teaches you that,

[37] ... in all these things (you can be) more than conquers through the ONE HAVING LOVED (you). [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate (you) FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, IN CHRIST JESUS our Lord.

Listen to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a which is the divine definition of God's LOVE; which is agape LOVE;³ which is the LOVE God has for you. Inspiration says,

[4] LOVE is patient, LOVE is kind, and is not jealous; LOVE does not brag and is not arrogant, [5] does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, [6] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; [7] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

[8a] LOVE NEVER FAILS....

Can you see in this divine definition that agape LOVE is a 'SELFLESS' LOVE? It is a LOVE that cares for others before it cares for itself. It is both the LOVE God has for you and the LOVE He desires for you to have toward Him first and then toward others [Luke 10:27]! I believe this is why the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3⁴ that even if you,

[1] ... speak with human tongues and of angels, BUT DO NOT HAVE (the) LOVE (of God) (you are no more than) a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] And if (you) have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if (you) have all faith, so as to remove mountains, BUT DO NOT HAVE (the) LOVE (of God) (you are) NOTHING. [3] And if (you) give all (your) possessions to feed the poor, and if (you) deliver (your) body to be burned, BUT DO NOT HAVE (the) LOVE (of God), it profits (you) nothing.

Having said these things, will you please pray with me?

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; I praise You and bring You an offering of thanksgiving today because You tell us You loved us first. Teach us what Your love truly is! Teach us to love all people as You love us! I now offer this prayer of thanksgiving in the power and authority that is in the Name and blood of Jesus Your unique Son. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** promising in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

*BECAUSE THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONTROLS ME, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT,
HE DIED FOR ME, THEREFORE, I DIED THAT I CAN LIVE FOR HIM!⁵ – tom*

³ "Agape love is Strong's Greek dictionary noun number 26.

⁴ My paraphrase.

⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:14 personalized.