

Letters of Love

“For God so loved the world...”

What do you love about the world? What do you not love?

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:16-19 NIV)

v. 16 most of us know. But how are 17 & 18 in some ways even more comforting? Unfortunately, love and light is not always well received. Why not?

15 “If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (John 14:15–21 NIV)

The intimacy of a relationship with the Triune God is here in these **Red Letters**. How much of it can you grasp? What is the coolest part of the love Jesus is describing here?

What is the implication for those who have Jesus’ commands and do not obey them?

“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” (John 17:23-26 NIV)

In this part of Jesus’ “high priestly prayer,” we see again His desire to wrap us within the love relationship of the Triune God. Have you ever really taken the time to think about not just loving Jesus, but God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, three-in-one? Or does it make your head hurt too much?