

Title: Jesus Destroys the Isms

Scripture: John 3:16

Speaker: Josh Maness

Event: Sunday Evening Service

Date: March 22, 2015

**John 3:16** – *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

**Jesus confronts several things in this one verse:**

1. **Atheism:** This verse is started with two words similar to the beginning of the Bible in Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* John 3:16 starts with *“for God”* Psalm 14:1 *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”*
2. **Fatalism:** Fatalism is the belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable. The words *“so loved”* means that God is a personal God. God loves us with an agape love. The word agape relates to a type of love that we can never fully understand. It goes beyond any kind of love that we can have for anyone or anything. In John 3:14 it says *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:”* God loved the people in the wilderness enough to make a way for them. 1 John 2:15 *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* Jeremiah 31:3 *“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”* A sinner may go to hell unsaved, but they will not go unloved. God loved us enough to send his ONLY son to die for us in our place.
3. **Nationalism:** this is the devotion or loyalty to one’s own country. In the bible we find that Israel was the apple of God’s eye. He always took care of his people. The Jews often thought that because they were born in Israel that they were entitled. God cleared up that salvation wasn’t only for one specific group of people when he said the phrase *“the world”*. It’s not for the United States, Israel, France, or Antarctica. It’s for EVERYONE. God wants everyone to be a part of his family. He doesn’t limit it to nationality – not just Jew and not just Gentile.
4. **Materialism:** Materialism is a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values. We know a little about giving but not what it means to give a lot. Most of the times when we give it’s not a sacrifice for us. We give when we have extra or money/time planned out ahead of time. With God giving his son, he gave everything. The words *“that he gave”* encompasses all that he gave for us. God saw his only son dying on a cross because he loved YOU. That’s a God who isn’t worried about material possessions.
5. **Universalism:** is religious, theological, and philosophical concepts with universal application or applicability. Many popular speakers in religion/Christianity will proclaim that Christ was the only way for them to obtain salvation, but it might not be the best way for someone else. *“His only begotten son”* shows that Christ is the only way salvation can be gained.
6. **Legalism:** Legalism is the view that a man gets to heaven by doing good works. Christ is also confronting easy believeism. That simply means that saying a prayer one time takes care of everything. This takes the faith out of salvation. Believe means to put our complete trust in something. Prayer and living for Christ is a continual process. We can’t just ask for forgiveness and live our lives the way we want from then on. In John 3:1-4 *“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”* John 3:26 *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* Believeth not means

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“disobey”. How many people know John 3:16 but don’t even live life like they know who Christ is? *“That whosoever believeth”*

7. **Pluralism:** *“in Him”* means more than one. All religions are not equal. There is not more than one God. Salvation is not a multistep process. It takes one thing. Acts 4:12 *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*
8. **Annihilationism:** *“should not perish”* defeats the belief that death ends with the grave. Christ has created a place for us to spend eternity with Him. John 14:1-2 *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*
9. **Endism:** the phrase *“everlasting life”* defeats the thought that our lives will come to an end. John 3:16 begins with God and ends with life. Numerous times in the word of God we see that Christ is our life. Galatians 2:20 bears a slight resemblance to John 3:16: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

For God –	[the Lord of earth and heaven]
So Loved –	[and longed to see forgiven]
The world –	[in sin and pleasure mad]
That He gave –	[the only son he had]
His only begotten son –	[to take our place]
That whosoever –	[oh, what grace]
Believeth –	[placing simple trust]
In Him –	[the righteous and the just]
Should not perish –	[lost in sin]
But have everlasting life –	[in Him]