

WHO'S THEO? Part 3
"LOOKIN' FOR LOVE?"
Pastor Bill Bush
February 7, 2010

What I think about God shapes my whole relationship with Him,
and what I believe He thinks about me
determines how close I will grow toward Him!

BIG IDEA:
God is LOVING!

Three truths...

- Everyone is looking for love!
- Just as there is a universal quest for love, there is a universal answer to that quest.
- There's a tragic disconnection between the universal need and the universal answer.

Definition of God's love: God's love is His holy disposition toward all that He has created that compels Him to express unconditional affection and selective correction to provide the highest quality of existence, both now and forever, for the object of His love.

Today's CLUE...

By faith, I need to receive God's love.

Ephesians 3:16-20

You can trust your way into feelings but you CANNOT feel your way into trusting.

What else do you need God to show you in order for you to know that HE LOVES YOU?

By faith, will you receive God's love?

John 3:16

God loves a person not just a population!

Next Sunday...How do you RELY on God's love?

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SHARPEN THE POINT
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For further study of today's message

Entry Point: One of the most familiar and most memorized passages in the Bible is John 3:16. Begin your study by reading and reflecting on these words.

If you believe the words in John 3:16 to be true, what makes it so difficult, or uncomfortable, or even unlikely to think in terms of "For God so loved **me**..."? How does believing that God sent His only Son into the world to die for **your** sins change anything about your understanding of His incomprehensible love and mercy?

Now read 1 John 4:9-12. Consider the idea that God does not love us because of who *we* are, but because of who *He* is. Are we loved because we are worthy, or are we worthy because we are loved? Do we love others because they are worthy, or because God's love "has been brought to full expression through us."?

No one has ever seen God, but when we are filled with God's love, others will see Him in us. How have you tried to love others out of a sense of duty rather than out of a heart overflowing with God's love for you? How does it work when you try to give away something you have not received? Discuss.

To the extent that we struggle with insecurity and fear, we are not letting God's perfect love reach its goal in our hearts! What situations cause you the most anxiety, and how can you better allow God to love you and minister to you in these situations?

*"And may you have the power to understand,
as all God's people should,
how wide, how long, how high, and how deep
His love really is.
May you experience the love of Christ,
though it is so great you will never fully understand it.
Then you will be filled with the fullness of
life and power that comes from God."
Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)*