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# ***HOW GREAT IS THE LOVE OF GOD***

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, December 18, 2016*

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” *John 3:16, ESV***

## **How God Loves the World**

1. This Love Is of Such a Kind and Such an Intensity That It Moved God to Give His Son to Die for The World

“The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

***John 10:17–18, NLT***

Love Is When I Put Someone Before Myself, My Preferences and My Desires. It Is a Commitment to Selflessness Toward Another

“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.” ***Philippians 2:5–8, NLT***

2. One Undeniably Clear Purpose and Effect of That Love, Is That “Whoever

Believes in Him Will Not Perish but  
Have Eternal Life.”

This Love Opens the Door So That Anyone Who  
Believes On  
The Son Will Enter Eternal Life

### 3. Therefore, This Love Is Indiscriminate

God Can Do This Justly Because His Son Has  
Cancelled the Debts of All Who Believe

## **The Free Offer of The Gospel**

This Is What the Love of God Means and Promises  
and Does

There Are No Limits to This Offer

## Why Doesn't Everybody Believe and Act on the Good News of John 3:16?

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.” *John 3:19–20, ESV*

Faith Conquers Evil, But Evil Deceives Me to Believe  
I Am Not Evil

## How Then Is Anyone Saved?

The Way Anyone Is Saved

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with

Christ... “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” *Ephesians 2:4–5, 8 ESV*

An Ongoing State of Spiritual Death

God’s Love Did More Than Send Jesus to the Cross

“And when he [the advocate] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” *John 16:8, ESV*

“And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”  
*John 12:32, NLT*

“For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me...” *John 6:44, NLT*

### **3 Conclusions**

1. The More I Am Given Over to Darkness,  
The Harder It Is to Reach for The Light

“for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”

*Ephesians 5:8, ESV*

2. Salvation Is Impossible Except for The  
Work of The Spirit

3. Today Is the Day of Salvation

“That is why the Holy Spirit says, “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness.” *Hebrews 3:7–8, NLT*