

Introduction:

I want to welcome everyone on this Sunday morning of May 3 to the Osaka International Church, online service.

My name is Charlie Seelen. My wife (Teresa) and I serve as Southern Baptist missionaries here in the Osaka area.

The OIC family have been great partners and dear friends throughout our many years of service in Japan. Which makes this a privilege to be with you this morning.

If you remember last month's service where you and I were together (the Sunday before Easter) we looked at the interesting statement, "**You must be born again**" (John 3:3, 5, 7), which was part of a very familiar conversation between Nicodemus the Pharisee and Jesus Christ. We were able to understand from this conversation found in the book of John the difference between the Pretenses of Belief and Genuine Saving Faith.

Nicodemus was challenged by Jesus to look at the evidence before him and to make a decision. Was Nicodemus going to fall back on a pretense of belief or was he going to trust that Jesus is who He says He is? What is this evidence? Who does Jesus say He is? Let's review the evidence found in the book of John one more time.

What exactly is the evidence?

Turn to John 1:1-4 :

The Bible testifies that Jesus is the Word of Life

vs. 1

- In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) = Jesus was not created
- the Word was with God = Jesus existed with God from the very beginning.
- the Word was God = Jesus is not less than God, identical in essence with God

vs. 2

- He was in the beginning w/God = Jesus in communion with God, yet distinct from God. (God the Father, God the Son)

vs. 3

- All things came into being by Him = Jesus was active in the work of creation.

vs. 4

- In Him was life, and the life was the light of men = Jesus gives eternal life

Ok, this is the evidence, so now like Nicodemus we must make a decision.

This morning we are going to look at another familiar passage in John chapter 3 verse 16.
John 3:16

Pray – After the prayer the slides begin

If you have downloaded the print-out you will notice our main statement.

Main Statement: With a love like that, you know you should be glad.

1. The source of God's love is His own heart*For God so loved*

A. The cross did not secure the love of God, the love of God secured the cross

The love of God secured the cross. There is absolutely nothing you can do to get God to love you one iota more than he already does. And there is absolutely nothing you can do to get God to love you one iota less. -Steve Brown

B. God loved you before time even began

2. The object of God's love is His own creation*the world*

A. It is not a select group or category of any kind, God loves the whole world

-1 Timothy 4:9-10 *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.*

3. The proof of God's love is the giving of His own Son*He gave His only son*

A. God's love is a love beyond comprehension

-Ephesians 3:14-19 *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

4. The purpose of God's love is that we might believe*that whoever believes in him*

A. By believing we show that we love Him in return

5. The perfection of God's love in us happens when we accept: "He just loves us."

-1 John 4:15-19 *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.*

God Loves You...Accept it!

John 3:16

Main Statement: With a love like that, you know you should be glad.

1. The _____ of God's love is His own _____.

A. The _____ did not secure the love of God,
the love of God secured the _____.

B. God loved you before _____ even began.

2. The _____ of God's love is His own _____.

A. It is not a select _____ or _____ of any kind, God loves the
_____ world.

- 1 Timothy 4:9-10

3. The _____ of God's love is the _____ of His own Son.

A. God's love is a love beyond _____.

- Ephesians 3:14-19

4. The _____ of God's love is that we might _____.

A. By _____ we show that we _____ Him in return.

5. The _____ of God's love in us happens when we _____:
"He just loves us."

- 1 John 4:15-19