



When we know we're GREATLY loved, we can love GREATLY.

**John 3:16 [NIV]**

*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.*

**1 John 3:16 [NIV]**

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

**1 John 1:1-4 [NLT]**

*<sup>1</sup> We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.*

*<sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.*

**1 John 4:20-21 [MSG]**

*<sup>20-21</sup> If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.*

**Stop asking if you AGREE,  
and start asking if you LOVE.**

## How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

**You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:**

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.*

**If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.**

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### **For Further Reflection:**

:: Recall a time you received a meaningful/significant letter. Who was it from? Why was it meaningful? What did you do with it?

:: Read 1 John 3:16. What is most impactful for you in John’s words? Why?

:: Reread 1 John 1:1-4. What stands out to you most in these 4 verses? What are some implications of Jesus being the Word of Life? Why is it important for us to recognize Him as that?

:: Pastor Shawn said, “Stop asking if you agree, and start asking if you love.”

:: What can happen when we seek to agree over seeking to love?

:: What can happen when we seek to love over seeking to agree?

:: Why is it important to make a choice?

:: Which action is most difficult for you to live into?

:: What are ways we can intentionally choose love?

:: Identify one practical way you can choose love over agreement this week.

:: Ask someone you trust to pray for you as you seek to take that next step.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – July 25 & 26, 2020

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