

## For God So Loved

*Romans 4:1-8,13-17*

*John 3:16-21*

Memory Verse: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another". ~ John 13:34-35

### 1) **John 3:16 - building out the context**

- Jesus is approached by a Pharisee named Nicodemus, we are unsure of his motives (but in the end it doesn't matter)
- John's detail of darkness emphasizes the revealing nature of the light (Jesus being the light). John will further that point in verse 19-21
- Jesus exposes Nicodemus in the same way that he exposes anyone who moves into his light. Jesus exposes our sin

### 2) **To be born again of water and spirit**

- What does it mean to be born of "water and spirit" or born again? It means to be born from above
- This is God acting in our lives, it's God making the move. We are not justified by our own merits or our actions.
- Romans 4:1-8, 13-17. We are justified by faith not by law. The law kills, the gospel brings new life and hope

### 3) **How do I know that God loves even me?**

- God's love is not what we expect "love" to be. It's not mere affection. It's intense, it's fierce

- Look to your baptism, look to the bread and wine. These are physical elements of God's Word and promise. Tangible and given for you to cling to that promise of salvation and forgiveness