

The Three Centers of Love

Message

1. “God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

The “world” is not the world of nature, although no doubt God loves it, but a teeming world of sinful men and women.

Christ belongs to the whole world. He is the Son of man. His benefits are universal. Calvary is for everyone.

2. “Christ also loved the church” (Ephesians 5:25).

The true Church is not an organization. It is not a denomination. The Church is that bit of the world that has come home. It is an ever-growing company of quickened souls who could never rest content among swine. No one in the true Church is in the far land. All are brought nigh by the blood of Christ.

3. “He loved me” (Galatians 2:20).

Salvation is a person-to-person experience. No man living can love a multitude with the same intensity he can love his own child. God loves me as if there were no one else in the world.

Conclusion

He loved the world, and gave. He loved the Church, and gave. He “loved me, and gave himself for me.” Saving faith is to say in the words of the Sunday school hymn: “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.” That is the gospel.

C.M. Ward