

# Father John's Gospel Reflection



## Gospel

**GOSPEL – SUNDAY, 11 JUNE, 2017**

**- Trinity Sunday**

(John 3: 16-18)

**God sent his Son to save the world through him.**

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

'God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.  
No one who believes in him will be condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,  
because he has refused to believe  
in the name of God's only Son.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## Reflection

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There is debate about exactly when Jesus' words to Nicodemus' end and John's commentary begins. Because Greek manuscripts did not include punctuations, it is not always easy to identify the speaker. In any event I take it that they are the words of the Gospel writer, and we believers would say they are words inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In v16 let's look at the word "world"- it had many meanings: (1) Jesus condemns the world for not believing. (2) The world is a place of immorality. (3) The world is equated with the Jew or the gentile - those who turned their back on Jesus. The point here is that the love of Jesus is universal, no one, saint or sinner is excluded from this munificent love. So, God's love extends to everyone in exactly the same way.

Jesus offers "eternal life"- this does not mean life without end, although that is part of it - it refers to entering into a personal relationship with the living God, and his Son. So, believing "in the name of the only Son of God." V18 means believing in all that He is, and all He came to do. Then we are offered "life and life in abundance." Jn 10:10.

So, eternal life is not intrinsic to persons, but is given to them, or withheld from them according to their relationship to God or the Son. Jesus comes into a lost world as the Light, not to cast shadows, but to bring light and life - salvation is offered to all, though some will not accept it.

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1. It does not matter our religious belief, or lack of it, Jesus offers us life, and life to the full - salvation is open to all.
2. We are called to conversion, moving from self-interest to service of others.
3. On this Trinity Sunday, rather than trying to figure out the mystery of the Trinity, let us praise and thank God for all of creation.

## Take home Message