



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**IF JESUS IS YOUR FOUNDATION,
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE STORM!**

“What’s Your SO?”

John 3:16 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

John 3:16 can be read from different theological perspectives and has been a source of different doctrinal positions.

- **Augustinians & Calvinists** emphasize the role of “God” in loving the world & in giving His Son.
- **Armenians** stress the word “whosoever” as indicating human freedom and the human decision-making process in salvation.
- **Full perspective** – God is the initiator and principal actor in salvation, and we should never think that salvation originates with us.

God, however, has given humanity a sense of freedom

- requires us to make a choice.
- Accordingly, people are responsible for their believing.

John 3:16 — Gospel in microcosm!

- The Gospel in a nutshell.
- Describes God in 12 superlatives.
- Helps us understand why He loves us SO.

“For God SO...”

- “So” is such a small word!!!
- Easily ignored
- Can be overlooked for its importance
- But have You stop to think what the Word “So” is or what it Means?

“So” is:

- **Intensifying adverb**
 - Intensifying adverb may close a sentence, such as in “I love her so”.
 - Intensifying adverb may be in middle of a sentence, such as in “I so love her”. (Like our verse that we are reading today!)
- **“So”** – means an indicated or suggested extent or degree

- There are three uses of the word “so” in our vocabulary:
 1. As an adverb (That was so thoughtful of you!)
 2. As a conjunction (I bought a bike so I can exercise more.)
 3. As filler (So, I was wondering, how does this work?)
- “So” (Greek: *houto*) means...
in this way, or in the same way, or like this, or truly, or so much, or accordingly.

What’s Your SO, today?

Is it I’m So:

- Anger (Mad, Upset)
- Bewildered
- Confusion (doubt)
- Depression (sad)
- Discouragement
- Disappointment
- Fearful (Scared)
- Frustrated

God “So” loved the World...

SO, THERE ARE THREE THINGS TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT GOD’S “SO:”

1) IT’S _____ - For God...

God (Greek: θεός^a, οὗ m): the one supreme supernatural being as creator and sustainer of the universe—‘God.’

- God is often conceived as the greatest entity in existence.
- God is often thought of as independent of the material creation,
- while pantheism holds that God is the universe itself.
- In Christianity, God is often described as both a spirit and a person, specifically, a Trinity of three distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) within one God.
- The Bible states that "God is Spirit."
- † John 4:24 NKJV
- While God is a Spirit, He is also described as a person with a mind, emotions, and a will.

Understanding God as both spirit and person helps us to have a personal relationship with Him, as He is not just an abstract concept, but a living, active being.

2) IT'S _____ – *the world...*

World (Greek: κόσμος^d, ου m: (cosmos, universe) refers to people associated with a world system and yet, estranged from God—‘people in the world.’

The world system is committed to at least four major objectives:

- a) **Fortune** – The world system is driven by money; it feeds on materialism.
- b) **Fame**. That is another word for popularity.
- c) **Power**. This is having influence, maintaining control over individuals or groups or companies or whatever.
- d) **Pleasure**. At its basic level, pleasure has to do with fulfilling one's sensual desires. It's the same mindset that's behind the slogan: "If it feels good, do it."

† 1 John 2:16 NKJV

God's purpose in sending his only Son was not to destroy the world or humanity, that World through Him might be saved.

† John 3:17 NKJV; 1 John 2:17 NKJV; Galatians 4:4-5 NLT

Since the beginning of time, God's plan has been to reverse the human problem—namely, to provide the means by which humanity might be saved.

He Seeks to save the World, 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV

3) IT'S _____ – *that He gave...*

Gave (Greek: δίδωμι; δόσις, εως f) to give an object, usually implying value.'

"Gave" means to freely transfer the possession of (something) to (someone).

God is a Giver! (Jehovah-Jireh)— He freely Gave us His Son!

† Romans 5:8 NKJV; Romans 8:32 NKJV; 1 John 4:10 NKJV

CONCLUSION

So whatever your **"So"** is... God's **"So"** can satisfy your **"So"** ...if you will give it to Him

Anger God Gives you **PEACE**, John 14:27

Bewildered . God Gives you **FAITH**, Romans 10:17

Confused God Gives you **WISDOM**, James 1:5

Depressed .. God Gives you **JOY** unspeakable and full of Glory, 1 Peter 1:8

Discouraged God Gives you **HOPE**, Colossians 1:27

Disappointed God Gives you **VICTORY**, 1 Corinthians 15:57

Fearful God Gives you **LOVE**, 1 John 4:18

Frustrated... God Gives you **GUIDANCE**, Psalm 32:8

Overwhelmed God Gives you **RELIEF**, Psalm 94:13