

**- Belief & Unbelief -**  
John 3:16-21

Belief & Regeneration from God's point of view.

Vs. 13 - Regeneration is something that God initiates

Vs. 14-15 - John connects Jesus' crucifixion; resurrection and exaltation. Regeneration is a gift from the Father and the Spirit provided by the Son who was "lifted up".

Vs. 16 - Regeneration, as a mission of Jesus, is rooted in God's love.

Vs. 17 - What the angel told Joseph described Jesus' first advent and what that same angel told Mary described his second advent.

**- God's Love -**

The Bible speaks of "God's love" in several ways:

1. The love that exists between the Father & Son (John 3:35; 5:20)
2. God loves his creation
3. God's love for the world in John 3:16
4. God's redeeming love - Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Malachi 1:2-3; Ephesians 5:25
5. God loves those who obey (Exodus 20:6; Psalm 103:8; Jude 21; John 15:9-10).

God's love for his people in the O. T. is primarily about faithfulness to his covenant; God's love in the N. T. is also about his faithfulness to keep his promise in John 3:16. We can conclude that God's love for the world is rooted and founded on His love for the Son. (Luke 15)

Unbelief - John 3:18-21, 36; Hebrews 3:12-19

**Conclusion:**

1. Three statements vs. 3, 5, 14-15 - God intervenes and I respond
2. In John's gospel all evangelism is nurturing coming to Jesus. First, tell people the truth about believing in Jesus and trust that God will open their hearts to hear, believe and obey. Secondly, live a life that causes others to wonder what is going on.
3. Old Testament - outside-to-inside work of law and commandment failed to change God's people; Jesus states that the inside-to-outside route is God' way.
4. God's relationship with the son stands behind his love for a lost world