

You Can Become a Child of God

John 1:9-14 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

❖ Introduction

❖ Recap of Previous Weeks

➤ For the benefit of those who may have missed...

- Rev. 1-4
- **John 1.1-5 “Resolve to know Jesus Deeply”**
 - As... 1) the beginning 2) the Word 3) with God 4) God 5) Maker of all made things 6) Life 7) Light 8) Overwhelming
- Most of these are on our Website if you want to catch up.

❖ Remember the Focus

➤ For John

- So people would get saved...
- **John 20:31: “...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”**

➤ For Us

- **To know Jesus Better...**
 - Sermon Series is entitled “Who is Jesus”
 - And Who better than John to direct us in this...?
- **Why John is perfect for this... maybe the most perfect Disciple**
 - ♦ 1 John “that which we have... seen, heard, touched
 - ♦ John 1.14 of Jesus that He “dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory...”
- **John really knew Jesus...**

❖ Last Week....

➤ 1) A Witness for God

- Who pointed people to Jesus (not himself)
- So all “might” believe
 - Saw the possibility for all people to believe (subjunctive mood)

➤ 2) Saw Jesus as the True Light shining

- He is a light to illuminate the soul in darkness
 - Example of Satan and His lies to Adam and Eve
- He is absolutely shining... something that is certainly happening (indicative mood)

➤ 3) The Rejection of the Light

- **Rejected By the World ...**
 - Understood the world as all peoples...
 - But it is also understood as the peoples that are hostile to God
 - Whereas he came into the World to be a light (consisting of all peoples)
 - The world (specifically those who are hostile to Him) did not know Him...
- **Rejected by His own people**
 - The Jewish People...
 - Those who should have been ready for Him...

❖ Today ...

➤ We pick up our next point... With the backdrop of this Rejection....

- A Rejection by a world of people that He made and should have known Him

- And a rejection by a people He gave special insight into who He was... the Jewish people...
- **The Sad tragedy that few are Saved**
 - **Matthew 7:13-14** “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

❖ 1) Jesus Give us The Right to Become Children of God

- Look at the second half of this verse first...
- **Some people will be given the right to be children of God**
 - For this to make sense...
 - And impact you this morning you must understand...
 - **A Foundational Premise – From our birth we are born with a fallen nature**
 - ◆ **Bible Describe us as:**
 - Brought forth in iniquity, and conceived in sin (Ps 51)
 - Enemies of God (Rom 5)
 - Sons of disobedience (Eph 2.2)
 - Dead in trespasses and sins (Eph 2.5)
 - Paul quoting the Psalms – No one is righteous, no one does good...
 - **For this reason, it is Amazing that John says that (He gave some the right to be Children)**
 - **For the Christian this morning...**
 - ◆ This should cause the fruit of Gratitude to overflow in your heart this morning
 - ◆ Even now, you should recount your former ways, and God’s present grace
 - ◆ This should overflow in our praise this morning
 - ◆ This should overflow in our lives when we leave
 - **For some of you... this may not seem so amazing... yet...**
 - ◆ But what if I told you... that is You?
 - ◆ You are the person the Bible is describing... as His enemy
 - ◆ Would John’s next statement (children of God) mean more to You?
 - ◆ For those in here that have never been “Born a new” by God
 - ◆ For those whom the Spirit of God has never made alive...
 - ◆ You should scoot up to the edge of your seat and listen...
- **He gave the right to become children of God**
 - To the children, Jesus has...
 - 1 Peter 2:9 “...called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
 - Acts 26:18 “to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’
 - **Right or Authority**
 - Word means : authority or power to be or to do
 - ◆ Like a Supernatural power....
 - We now have a rightful claim to become what we were not before...
 - And what we had no chance of being before
- **Now the question: Who is allowed to be the children of God?**
 - He answered right before...
- **All who received him, who believed in His name**
 - **Some may think that John is just saying the same thing twice... Just in different ways**
 - And He often does this...
 - But it seems He is saying one thing, but in different ways...

- with different nuances to emphasize the way one comes to Jesus
- **if your versions reads...** “even” to those who believe on His name... “even” is not there...
 - Some have taken this to mean He is referring to two different ways to become children
 - Not so.
- **All who Received Him,**
 - **Received Him** – take hold of... to seize... and Receive
 - Active verb
 - **Let me give you an Analogy:**
 - **My first thought was Christmas morning and my kids get something they really wanted...**
 - ◆ They take that gift... and often I
 - ◆ can not get them to open other gifts because of this one
 - **My second thought was Billy the Exterminator...**
 - ◆ The guy with the mullet and spikes on his bracelets
 - ◆ They have been capturing gators...
 - ◆ And they pounce on them, and grab them, and seize them...
 - ◆ And they do this with a ferocity, and do not let go...
 - ◆ They don’t just walk up and sit on the gator, or shake hands with the gator
 - **When one Receives Christ, they seize hold of Him...**
 - The Children of God do not receive Christ halfheartedly...
 - They receive Him and lay hold of Him
 - As the only way into heaven... As the only way to have their sins forgiven...
 - As the only one to bring them peace with God...
 - **Please do not read this verse halphazardly...**
 - They RECEIVE Him!
- **Who Believed in His name**
 - Believe here in the text, is also an active verb...
 - **Believe** – to believe and have confidence in something...
 - To entrust oneself to something
 - **Don’t make the Mistake James warns of:**
 - **James 2:19** ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!
 - We see demons in Mark acknowledging His divine nature
 - Somewhere along the Line, people have misunderstood what it means to believe in Him
 - ◆ **Simple Example:**
 - I have a belief about David Koresh... I believe He existed
 - The Branch Davidians believed in David Koresh
 - I have a belief about Jim Jones... I believe He was real
 - His followers believed in Jim Jones
 - ◆ They placed their trust in Him
- **God’s Children believe ... In His Name**
 - They entrust themselves “In his name”
 - **In His name is in reference to:**
 - For John, His understanding of a name was directly related to someone or something’s nature...
 - Throughout the O.T. we see men having their name changed...
 - This was because through God, the nature of who they were changed.
 - **When the Biblical writers write that we must believe on His name.**
 - It means we believe in Jesus as He is.
 - In all of His attributes, characteristics.
 - And John has went to great lengths to describe His nature so far in chapter 1
 - As well as we saw in our Study of Revelation
- **This is the Reason I want us to know Jesus better**
 - So a person may come to Saving Faith...
 - And there is no question or wonder as to who they believe in.

- **The Emphasis**
 - Is not so much on what you know and what you believe
 - AS... Whom you know and in whom you believe
- **Contrast: The World, and his Own people did not know Him**
 - But there are some... that do know Him
 - **Know:**
 - Not just to know of, or have an intellectual belief in a person
 - It is relational...
 - In a similar although not the exact way as Adam “knowing” his wife and resulting in children
 - Knowing Christ is intimate and relational
 - **His children, know Him, Receive Him, and believe on his name...**
- **Application:**
 - Does this describe your : Knowing Jesus... your Believing in Jesus... your Receiving Jesus?

¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

❖ 2) It is Through Jesus We are Born of God

- **Not everyone is a child of God**
 - Remember that... Think about that... let it rest heavy on your hearts...
 - And lead you to shine your light
- **First Step**
 - To Receive Him and Believe on His name, you must first be born of God
 - The first step, even before we receive Jesus... is being born of God
- **Becoming a Child means being born**
 - 1) **How we Do Not become Children**
 - **By Blood**
 - ◆ By the race in which they were born into...
 - ◆ The Jews thought they were God’s Children because of their birth
 - ◆ Nor does it matter who our parents are (although they help point to Christ)
 - **By the Will of the Flesh**
 - ◆ By our striving in works...
 - ◆ What we can do with our Bodies... We can not become a child of God by
 - ◆ By making ourselves special...or our achievements
 - **By the Will of Man**
 - ◆ Not even by our own will...
 - ◆ I think he has in mind, our mind here... our own determination
 - ◆ We do not become a child of God because it was our will...
 - ◆ Rather... the Bible teaches that our will was in opposition to God’s will.
 - 2) **We Become children of God because He causes our New Birth.**
 - **Perfect verse to emphasize this is in 1 Peter:**
 - ◆ 1 Peter 1:3 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - God Causes our awakening
 - ◆ **Look at the role of the Holy Spirit**
 - John 3:8 ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
- **We owe our Salvation to God**
 - **Salvation 101 – Repentance and Faith**
 - When we say people received Jesus and believed on His name,
 - we know they repented of their sins, and had faith in Jesus

- **Repentance is Given by God (2 places)**
 - Acts 11:18b "... Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life"
 - 2 Timothy 2:25 ... (The Lord's servant should be) correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth
- **Faith – Given by God**
 - Through His Word
 - ◆ Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
 - **Faith is the ave. by which we are saved that is VOID of our works being a credit our saving**
- **A Beautiful Mystery**
 - Of God's Sovereign Work first, but Man's responsibility to believe
- **Whoever is of God... hears his word... loves Jesus**
 - **Look at these verses in John 10**
 - John 10:27-33 ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

- ❖ 3) **Jesus, the eternal Word of God, became a man (flesh)**
 - **So much here, that we may focus solely on this verse next week.**
 - Almost like this verse should follow vs 3, after John proclaims the Word made all things
 - But John saves it for vs 14, so as to make it stand out
 - **The Reason John can say what He has said about Jesus, is because of the Nature of who Jesus Is!**
 - Becoming A Man made it possible for us to be saved.
 - Without the Word becoming a man
 - Or... as we can say, without Jesus, the Son of God becoming a man
 - There is no Salvation
 - Because there is no cross
 - Therefore no payment for our sins
 - **The Building Blocks of the Salvation Experience in Reverse (almost)**
 - 1) Given the right to be children of God
 - 2) To those who received Jesus
 - 3) And believed on His name
 - 4) Who were born of God
 - 5) A Result of God becoming man
 - **The Incarnation of Jesus Christ is probably the Greatest and most amazing thing ever done**
 - As I said before, our salvation is not accomplished apart from it.
 - There are no words to describe its greatness
 - **It is Called the Incarnation, because it simply means**
 - God took on flesh
 - Paul says of Jesus in **Colossians 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,**
 - This is significant because Paul is saying that in the man Jesus all of God dwelt
 - **The Word (Jesus) who was with God, and who was and is God**
 - Who made all things
 - From whom life exudes
 - And light flows out from this light
 - Is bottled up inside a man...
 - **Example:**
 - Only way I can think to describe it is...
 - Taking a quart jar to go out and catch fire flies (or as we call it, lightning bugs)

- And then you decide... why stop there, lets get some bigger lights...
- And you try to stuff the sun, and all the stars, and all the galaxies inside this one jar
 - ◆ Seems impossible doesn't it...
 - ◆ But that is what we are talking about here...
- **Or... going to the beach... digging a Hole there in the sand**
 - ◆ And pouring the entire ocean into this hole you dug...
 - ◆ And I don't care how big you make the hole.
 - ◆ You can't make one big enough
 - ◆ And you don't stop with the ocean but you try to fit every
 - Lake, river and stream into it.
- **And He dwelt among us**
 - **Dwelt – means he pitched a tent or tabernacled with us...**
 - Although completely set apart from us, as God... He does the unimaginable
 - And becomes one of us.
 - **He dwelt with the Israelites in the Wilderness**
 - ◆ His presence would come there to the tabernacle
 - ◆ And Moses alone could go in
 - **Then He lived with us in the God- Man Jesus Christ.**
 - **And He will one day do so again...**
 - **Revelation 21:3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
 - **And He isn't going to just stand there and be worshipped...**
 - He is a working God...
 - And like the first time He came... He accomplished our Salvation by His death on the cross...
 - He will make everything whole for us...
 - ◆ **Revelation 21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
- **We See Paul describing this event in great detail for us in Phil 2**
 - **Philippians 2:6-11** “**6** Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

❖ 4) We can See the Glory of the Son

- **Eternal Life is more than living forever...**
 - Jesus wants us to be able to see His glory...
 - Living forever means nothing if we are still in the same ol same ol here on earth
 - Chasing the American dream we can never catch
 - Eternal Life is Eternal Life
 - Because of Jesus...
 - Remember vs 4 “in Him was Life”
- **John and the Disciples saw it... (1st 4 verse of 1 John are as amazing as His gospel)**
 - **1 John 1:1-2** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—
 - The Word of Life...
 - Proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father..
 - And was made manifest (something once hidden was revealed/shown)
- **Seen His glory**

- The glory of God has been well documented throughout scripture...
 - It came over the place of worship in the O.T. and the people had to stay away from it
 - **Moses came into close contact with it**
 - And it caused His face to shine so brightly He had to wear a cover over His face
 - Because it was too bright for those around Him
 - An aside: Another reason to believe we also will radiate the glory of Jesus.
 - ◆ Many believe that the more faithful we are here on earth
 - ◆ The more capacity we have to radiate the glory of Jesus in heaven
 - Daniel 12:3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.
 - **The Disciples were amazed when they beheld it visually**
 - Matthew 17:1-2 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.
 - Then they saw Moses and Elijah with Jesus.....Wanted to build a Tent
 - Then God spoke concerning Jesus.....And they fell down terrified
 - And Jesus touched them and helped them up
- **Specifically His glory overflowed with Grace and Truth**
- We have seen it being seen visually, and maybe John was speaking of this as well...
 - But I believe the point John was making was the way in which His glory was revealed...
- **In Grace and truth**
- **The Disciples saw the Glory of the Son in the grace and truth that emanated from him...**
 - Grace and Truth flowed from Jesus
 - **Grace (is the driving force of the glory here...)**
 - His next thought on this is...
 - John 1:16 And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
 - **Grace – Is God’s Unmerited Favor**
 - We have favor from God for no reason, other than His love...
 - Grace is the only way a Sinner can be saved...
 - ◆ Romans 3:24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
 - Our giftings are an offering of grace from God
 - We are chosen by grace
 - We are what we are now by the grace of God
 - **We see grace on a lesser scale**
 - When we have done something terrible to not so good to someone...
 - ◆ And instead of seeking recompense... They give you grace...
 - Example: Losing Marty’s Oakley’s
 - ◆ Warned me... But was gracious even when I lost them...
 - **Paul’s Experience of Grace**
 - Persecuting the Church, arresting and being part of the death of believers
 - Jesus stops him in His tracks... Saves him...
 - Later on in Paul’s ministry... we see something so interesting
 - ◆ 2 Corinthians 12:7,8 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.
 - He had received great revelations...
 - But God did not want him conceited
 - So, a thorn in the flesh harassed Him...

- There was a sin that Paul struggled with...
 - It was in His flesh...
 - It humbled him...
 - He pleaded for it to be gone...
 - Look at Jesus answer...
- ◆ 2 Cor. 12.9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
 - He says... My grace is enough...
 - Why did Paul need grace?
 - Because grace is the only thing that overcomes our sins...
 - Says... You are weak Paul... But I am powerful...
 - I will just give you my grace... And that will be enough for you to live with this thorn
- ◆ Oh, How good God is to us.
- **Jesus.... Beholding man and their sin....**
 - Instead of bringing destruction upon every soul...
 - Offers grace to men...
 - Ephesians 1:7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, & which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight
- **We learn of this Grace through the Truth He has given**
 - We have looked at this a lot before
 - **Truth – what is right, real**
 - Jesus said, “ I am the truth”
 - We find out what is right from Jesus...
 - For John... living in a Jewish world that had bent God’s word, Jesus came revealing truth
 - For Us... living in a world of lies...
 - Jesus stands as a pillar, as an anchor to run to when we do not know what is right.
- **Application**
 - You can See His glory
 - Have you believed the Truth that comes from God
 - Have you received the Grace that comes from Jesus
- ❖ **Invitation**
 - Have you ever received Christ, having believed on His name
 - Do you rejoice in the miracle of God becoming a man
 - Have you seen the glory of God... Has it been shed (lavished) upon your hearts