

“Receiving Christ”

John 1: 12-13

**Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Intro:

Last time we considered verses 9-11, under the title:

“The Rejection of Christ”

Under the following headings:

1) By a Denial of him as the “True Light”

“That was the true Light”

2) By a Denial of the light of conscience

“which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

3) By a Denial of his incarnation

“He was in the world”

4) By a Denial of Creation and him as Creator

“and the world was made by him”

5) A Denial sourced in Ignorance

“and the world knew him not”

6) A Denial of Estrangement

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

This morning we consider verses 12-13, under the title:

“Receiving Christ”

Outline:

- 1) The Naming of the Receivers
- 2) The Nurture of the Receivers
- 3) The Nature of the Receivers
- 4) The Necessity of the Receivers

1) The Naming of the Receivers

“But as many as received him”

Note 1,

The Contrast with the rejecters of verses 10-11

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Consider,

The is the great turning point.

Those who Receive Christ are received by God!

Those who Receive him not are not received by God!

Compare:

Joh 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Note 2,

There is a definite number of those who receive Christ!

“But as many as received him”

There is no grey area here.

You are either a Rejecter or a Receiver of Christ!!

Compare:

1Jn 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Note 3,

That which defines them is the Receiving of Christ!

“But as many as received him”

Q. What does it mean to receive Christ?

λαμβάνω *lambanō lam-ban'-o*

“Receive” or “Take hold of”

It is more than mental assent!

Illus:

Joh 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Joh 19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

2) The Nurture of the Receivers

“to them gave he power to become the sons of God”

Note 1,

The Personal nature of this giving.

“to them”

Compare:

Isa 56:4 For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose *the things* that please me, and **take hold of my covenant**;

Isa 56:5 **Even unto them** will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: **I will give them** an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

Isa 56:6 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and **taketh hold of my covenant**;

Isa 56:7 **Even them** will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *shall be* accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

Note 2,

The Practical nature of this giving.

“gave he power”

□ εξουσία exousia

Strong:

From G1832 (in the sense of *ability*); *privilege*, that is, (subjectively) *force*, *capacity*, *competency*, *freedom*, or (objectively) *mastery* (concretely *magistrate*,

superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence: - authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Augustine:

"Lord, give what Thou commandest, and command what Thou wilt."

Note 3,

The Purposeful nature of this giving.

"to become the sons of God"

Compare:

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Also:

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Another outline for this clause could be:

1) Distinguishing grace:

"to them"

2) Divine grace:

"gave he power"

3) Devoted grace:

“to become the sons of God”

3) The Nature of the Receivers

“even to them that believe on his name”

Note 1,

This is what makes us, essentially, believers!

Joh 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, **because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

Note 2,

This is the whole focus of the gospel message!

Joh 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

Joh 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Note 3,

Outside of the name of Christ there is no hope of salvation!

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Note 4,

God the Father prizes the name of Christ above all other names!

Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

Php 2:11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

4) The Necessity of the Receivers

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Note 1,

We must be born into the family of God!

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Joh 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

George Whitefield said in one of his final sermons:

“I am now fifty-five years of age, and I am more than ever convinced that the truth of the new birth is a revelation from God Himself, and that without it you can never be saved.”

Note 2,

The triple Negative regarding the new birth

“not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man”

Simply:

1) Not of ethnic or family descent!

“not of blood” GK is plural - “not of bloods”

Rom 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Rom 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

2) Not of the will of an unconverted man!

“nor of the will of the flesh”

Rom 9:15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

Rom 9:16 So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

3) Not of the will of man in any sense!

“nor of the will of man”

Rom 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

In short,

Spiritual birth has absolutely nothing to do with the power of man!

NIV:

“children born not of natural descent, **nor of human decision** or a husband's will, but born of God.”

This triple negative is simply to emphasize that the new birth has nothing to do with man!!

Note 3,

The Positive Agent in the New Birth.

“but of God”

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Also:

Jas 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Also:

1Pe 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Barnes:

This important verse, therefore, teaches us:

1. That if men are saved they must be born again.
2. That their salvation is not the result of their birth, or of any honorable or pious parentage.
3. That the children of the rich and the noble, as well as of the poor, must be born of God if they will be saved.
4. That the children of pious parents must be born again; or they cannot be saved. None will go to heaven simply because their “parents” are Christians.
5. That this work is the work of God, and “no man” can do it for us.
6. That we should forsake all human dependence, cast off all confidence in the flesh, and go at once to the throne of grace, and beseech of God to adopt us into his family and save our souls from death.

App:

1. Have you Received Christ? Have you taken hold of him?
2. If so, do you daily rejoice that you are a child of God?

3. Is the name of Christ your only hope and confidence?

4. Do you understand that the only difference between you and the vilest sinner is the mere grace and mercy of God?

May God bless his word to our souls.

Amen.