

“Children Of God”
John 1:12-14

Introduction:

1. **IE:** All Throughout The World - There Are 140 Million Children Who Are Eligible For Adoption! Many Of Those Children Have Been Orphaned By The Ravages Of War, Poverty, Or Disease! Those Children Need The Love And Care Of Parents - Who Will Bring Them Into Their Family As One Of Their Own!
 - Remarkably, Only About 5,000 Of These Children Are Adopted By Parents In The United States!
 - And - For Those Children - Many Would Think That They Had Won The Adoption Lottery! That They Were Now Set For Life! That They Were Privileged Beyond Belief!
 - And - In Many Ways - All That May Be True! But - There Is A Greater Relationship & A Greater Privilege:
 - Than Being Adopted Into A Wealthy, American Family!
 - And That Is What We Find Back In John Chapter 1!
2. So - Let's Head There Again This Morning:
 - To John 1 - Where - Last Sunday:
 - Things Were Left On A Bit Of:
 - A Sad And Somber Note - In 1:11!
 - Because - In Spite Of The “True Light” Of Jesus Christ:
 - Moving Closer And Closer Into The Darkness:
 - Even “His Own” Proved By Their Reception:
 - That They Were Not Fully:
 - “His Own!”
 - Because - 1:11:
 - “He came unto his own, and his own received him not!”
 - “His Own” Showed That They Had More In Common:
 - With The World And Its Darkness Than With Heaven And Its Light!
2. But - As We Come To:
 - 1:12 - We Find That:
 - There Were Some Who *Did*:
 - “Receive” Him!
 - Some Who *Did*:
 - Reach For The Light!
 - Recognize The Light! And:
 - Receive The Light:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - And So - In 1:12-14 - We Read:
 - “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: / Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. / And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth!”
3. Those Who *Did* & Those Who *Do*:
 - “Receive” The Light Of Jesus Christ:
 - “Become The Sons” - And Really:
 - “The Children Of God!”
 - And This Family - And:
 - This Relationship Is:
1. **The Greatest Privilege:**
 - In All Of The World!
 - Greater Than Winning The “Adoption Lottery!”
 - Because Your Father Is Now:
 - God Himself!
 - And - If You Are One Of His Children Today:
 - I Want You To Grow In:
 - Your Gratitude To The Lord:
 - And Give Him All The Glory:
 - He Is Due!

- Because - It Is The Greatest Privilege:
 - In All The World:
 - To Be Part Of The Family Of God!
- Which Is What We See Again In:
 - 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!"
 - In This Verse - We First See:
- The Duty:
 - To Become A Child Of God!
 - You Must Receive Him!
 - You Must Receive And Take Hold Of:
 - The One Who Came To You:
 - To Light Up Your Life!
 - To Receive Means - To Fully Embrace Jesus Christ!
 - To Embrace:
 - Your Need For Christ:
 - As One Who Was Orphaned By Your Own Sin! And Then:
 - To Embrace:
 - The Nature Of Christ:
 - As The Heavenly Sunlight That Became A Searchlight:
 - To Bring You Into His Family!
 - This Is All You Must Do:
 - To Experience All The Privilege:
 - Of Being A Child Of God!
 - You Don't Have To Wait For Him To Come For You:
 - Because He Already Did!
 - And - When You Do Receive Him:
 - In This Way - You Will Experience:
- The Delight:
 - Of Being A Child Of God!
 - Because - 1:12 - "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God!"
 - "Power" Here Means "Privilege!"
 - It Doesn't Refer To Any Ability You Have:
 - But The Access You Now Have To God!
 - **IE:** On One Of Our Doors - We Have A Lock Which You Can Access With A Code - Not Everyone Has The Code - Only The Members Of Our Family That I Want To Come In!
 - Jesus Christ - The Living Word & Light Of God:
 - Is The Key / Even The Code:
 - Who Gives You Access:
 - To Your New Heavenly Home!
 - What A Privilege - And:
 - What A Delight:
 - To Be A Child Of The King!
 - But - How Can You Know? And:
 - How Can You Tell:
 - If You've Truly Received Him & If He's Received You?
 - How Can You Be Sure?
 - Because Of:
 - The Demonstration:
 - Of Being A Child Of God!
 - At The End Of 1:12 - John Explains Further:
 - What It Means & What It Will Look Like:
 - To "Receive" The Light Of The World:
 - Into Your Heart & Life!
 - It Is - To "Believe On His Name!"
 - "Believe" Is In The Present Tense:
 - Which Means That It Is Something That:
 - Is Ongoing & Continues In Your Life!

- If There Is No Believing Now - In The Present:
 - Then You Have To Wonder:
 - If You Ever Truly Received Him:
 - In The Past!
- But - When You Are “Believing” In Christ:
 - It Means That You Are:
 - Accepting:
 - All Of His Claims:
 - To Be True!
 - And That You Are:
 - Adhering To:
 - Him & Him Alone:
 - To Bring You Into The Family Of God!
- “The Sense Must Be That The Believer Throws Himself Upon His Lord In Loving, Self-Abandoning Faith And Trust!” (W. Turner)
 - Does This Describe Your Reception Of Christ?
 - Is Your Belief In Him Growing:
 - Deeper And Stronger & Tighter:
 - As If You Are Embracing Him With Spiritual Arms?
- What A Wonderful Gospel Truth:
 - We Have In This Verse!
 - 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!”
 - If You Have Received Christ & Are Believing In Christ:
 - Then Express Your Gratitude To Him:
 - For The Simplicity Of The Gospel:
 - Which Allows You To Experience The Greatest Privilege:
 - In All The World!
 - To Be A Child Of God!
 - And Yet - The More You Are Exposed To:
 - The Light Of Christ:
 - The More You Will See:
 - The Darkness Of Your Own Heart!
 - And - You Should Start To Wonder:
 - How *Could* Have I:
 - Received Him & Believe In Him?
 - What Makes Me So Different Than The Rest Of The World:
 - And Even - “His Own” Who:
 - “Received Him Not?”
 - Well - John Anticipates This Question As Well:
 - By Revealing:

2. ***The Greatest Power:***

- That Is Able To Bring You Into God’s Family!
 - **IE:** There Is A Truth About Children That You Can’t Escape - And That Is - You Can’t Choose Who Your Parents Are! You Can’t Choose What Family You Belong To!
 - But - What If You Could? What Family Would A Child Adopt For Himself?
 - If Left To Yourself:
 - You Would Never Have Chosen God To Be Your Father!
 - You Would Never Have Received & Believed In Christ!
 - It Was God:
 - Who First Chose You:
 - So That You Could Then:
 - Chose Him!
 - Because - If You **Did** Receive Christ - And:
 - If You **Do** Believe In Christ:
 - It Is Because - According To 1:13:
 - You Were “Born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of

man, but of God!”

- This Means That:
 - You Were “Born” Into God’s Family:
 - Through A New, Spiritual Birth:
 - That Had Nothing To Do With:
 - Your Own:
- Human Descent!
 - You Were Not Born Into God’s Family:
 - “Of Blood” - Or - “Of Bloods!”
 - This Seems To Point To The Physical, Natural Birth That Each One Of Us Experienced:
 - Through Our Natural, Biological Parents!
 - Which - For Some Of You Was A Long Time Ago!
 - But - Your Natural, Human Descent:
 - Has Nothing To Do With:
 - Your Relationship With God:
 - As His Child!
 - Yet - The Religious Leaders In Christ’s Day:
 - Didn’t Seem To Understand This!
 - In 8:33 - Some Of Them Said To Jesus & Claimed - “We Be Abraham’s Seed, And Were Never In Bondage To Any Man!”
 - But - When You Are Born:
 - Into The Family Of God:
 - It Is “**Not** Of Blood!”
 - But - Even More:
 - Being A Child Of God’s Has Nothing To Do With Your Own:
- Human Desire!
 - You Were Not Born Into God’s Family:
 - “Of The Will Of The Flesh” Either!
 - Even If Your Desire Was:
 - A Good Desire!
 - **IE**: There Are Many Times In The Bible - When There Were Godly Women Who Had A Godly Desire - To Have Children - But Couldn’t! We See This In The Lives Of Sarah & Rebekah & Hannah & Elizabeth - Who Were All Barren - Until God Miraculously Intervened!
 - All Of Us Were Born Into This World - Spiritually Barren!
 - And Instead Of Desiring With Our Own Wills:
 - To Become God’s Child:
 - How Did We Feel & How Did We Act:
 - Toward Him Instead?
 - Isaiah 53:2 - Christ - “He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him!”
 - You Were Not Born:
 - Into The Family Of God:
 - By The Will & Desire Of Your Flesh!
 - But - Even More:
 - Your Spiritual Birth:
 - Had Nothing To Do With:
 - Your Own:
- Human Determination!
 - You Were Not Born Into God’s Family:
 - By “The Will Of Man” Either!
 - **IE**: Think Of When Abraham Was Given The Promise By God That He And His Wife Sarah Would Have A Son - A Seed! But - They Both Became Impatient With God’s Plan - And Determined To Have Children By Any Means Possible! Which - Of Course - Let To Great Problems!
 - So It Is With The Family Of God!
 - No Amount Of Determination Or Will Power Got You A Place In Your Heavenly Home! No!
 - You Were Not Born:
 - Into The Family Of God:

- By Your Own Human:
 - Descent!
 - Desire! Or Even:
 - Determination!
- You Could Only Have Become Part Of God's Family:
 - Because You "Were Born . . . Of God!" (1:13)
 - Your New Birth Was According To:
 - God's Determination:
 - Not Yours! And:
 - God's Desire:
 - Not Yours!
 - But - When You Were "Born Of God!"
 - You Believed In & Received His Son:
 - To Be Your Own, Personal Savior:
 - From Sin!
 - And - This Is The Great Power:
 - Of The Gospel!
 - And - If You *Have* Been Born Again:
 - Then Be Grateful To God:
 - For *His* Will & *His* Choice:
 - To Bring You Into:
 - *His* Family!
 - And Give Him All The Glory:
 - He Is Due!
 - But - How Is It That God Could Do This?
 - To & For Sinners Like Us?
 - Its Because Of What We Find Next:
 - In 1:14:

3. ***The Great Provision:***

- To Become A Child Of God!
 - **IE:** I'm Not Entirely Sure Why - But Private Adoption Is A Very Expensive Process - Upwards Of \$40 Thousand Dollars! But - That's Just The Beginning! Because - Then You Have To Raise The Child - Which Is Also Very Expensive! More Than \$200,000 Just To Keep A Child Alive To Age 18!
 - But - All This Cost Is Borne By The Parents - Not The Child!
 - And So It Was For God The Father!
 - He Provided All That Was Needed:
 - To Bring Us Into & Secure Us In His Own Family! How?
 - Through The Great Provision:
 - Of Jesus Christ - Found In 1:14:
 - "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth!"
 - According To This Verse:
- The Word Was Sent To Us:
 - By God The Father - So That:
 - "The Word Was Made Flesh!"
 - The Same Powerful Word:
 - John Already Described In Verses 1-4!
 - The Same:
 - Revealing, Creative, Living Word:
 - Who Was Not Just *With* God:
 - But *Was* God Himself!
 - He Was Born Into This World:
 - And Didn't Just *Appear* In The Flesh:
 - Like He Did Many Times In The Old Testament!
 - This Time:
 - He "*Became* Flesh!"
 - He Was *Made* Flesh!

- He Came To Us - So That:
 - He Might Be The Key:
 - To Unlock The Door:
 - To Our Heavenly Home!
 - But - Even More:
- The Word Sojourned With Us!
 - He “Dwelt Among Us!”
 - He - “Pitched His Tent” With Us!
 - In His Own Flesh:
 - He Walked With Us!
 - He Talked With Us!
 - And - For 33 Years - He Made Earth His Home - So That:
 - Through Him We Could Meet With God!
 - Just Like The Jews Had Done In The Tabernacle & The Temple!
 - But - Even More:
- The Word Was Seen By Us!
 - John Says - “And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father!”
 - John And So Many Other Eyewitnesses:
 - Looked Upon The Unique Glory:
 - Of Jesus Christ As:
 - The Word Of God!
 - Of Course - Peter, James & John:
 - Were With Jesus - When:
 - He Was Transfigured Before Them:
 - In The Brightness Of His Glory:
 - On That High Mountain!
 - But - There Was More To His Glory:
 - Than That!
 - His Glory Was Seen:
 - All Through His Life!
 - Through His Miraculous:
 - Wonders & Works & Words!
 - Even As John Tells Us:
 - In 2:11 - About The Time When Jesus:
 - Turned The Water Into Wine!
 - “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him!”
 - But - Even More:
 - His Glory Was Seen:
 - Especially - Through His Death!
 - In 12:23 - Jesus Himself Said:
 - Hear The Time Of His Death:
 - “The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified!”
 - And So - John Says - In Absolute Wonder:
 - “And We Beheld His Glory!”
 - You See - The Clearest Display Of God’s Glory Is:
 - Jesus Christ! When “The Word Was Made Flesh, And Dwelt Among Us!”
 - And - His Glory Was Nothing Less Than:
 - The Glory Of The Son Of God:
 - Who Is - At The Same Time:
 - God The Son!
 - It Is The Glory Of Christ In The Gospel:
 - That Makes It Possible For You:
 - To Be Born Into The Family Of God!
 - Through The Glory Of His Birth, His Life, His Death, And His Resurrection!
 - Because Then - John Adds:
 - The Word Is Sufficient For Us!
 - He Is The One Who Is:

- "Full Of Grace And Truth!"
 - These Two Attributes Are Just Two Of The Bright Rays Of Jesus' Glory:
 - That Make It Possible For You:
 - To Become A Child Of God's!
- Only The Infinite Grace Of Jesus:
 - Could Overcome Your Sin:
 - So That You Could:
 - Receive Him & Believe In Him:
 - And Become A Part Of God's Family! And:
- Only The Infinite Truth & Faithfulness Of Jesus:
 - Can Be Trusted:
 - So That You Can Now:
 - Live As The Children Of God!
- And Now:
 - You Can Be Grateful For - And Give Glory To:
 - Jesus Christ - The Son Of God:
 - Because Of Just:
 - How Deep The Father's Love For Us!
 - How Vast Beyond All Measure!
 - That He Should Give His Only Son,
 - And Make A Wretch His Treasure!
 - How Great The Pain Of Searing Loss!
 - The Father Turns His Face Away,
 - As Wounds Which Mar The Chosen One,
 - Bring Many Sons To Glory!

Conclusion:

1. And This Is What It Took:
 - For *You* To Become:
 - A Son Or A Daughter Of God!
 - The Great Provision:
 - Of God - Through Christ!
 - According To:
 - The Great Power:
 - Of God - Through His Choice:
 - To Give You:
 - The Greatest Privilege:
 - In All The World:
 - To Receive & Believe In The Son Of God:
 - And Become:
 - "The Children Of God!"
 - 2. Have You Responded To:
 - This Grace & This Truth?
 - Are You Grateful For It?
 - Are You Giving God The Glory For It?
 - In Your Words & With Your Life?

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