

'The Son of God and the Lord of Glory Series'

Sermons in the Gospel of John

Message 7 - 'Children of God' John 1: 12



We can see that the Son of God and Lord of glory was unknown in the world, unwanted by Israel, but, there are those who received Him. Look at v12, think on it, think of its bearing on your life. At the very outset of John's Gospel, before He continues to tell us of the life, death, and resurrection of the Saviour, He tells us that the Gospel of grace is for all men, offered to all men, and them that receive it receive a glorious privilege that is all of God, all of grace. To underline for you, God's adoption of sinners leads us to a number of conclusions:

1. Adoption – Given By Heaven - As this verse so clearly and simply states, all of those who receive Christ are granted the privilege of this adopted status. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, God adopts sinners, He loves His adopted children, and staggeringly the Bible tells us that He loves them as He loves His only begotten Son. God will also share with His adopted children the glory that belongs to Christ now, Romans 8:17. I want you to see that John makes it very clear that a person cannot become one of God's children naturally. In others words you are not born as a Christian, or born into grace. In fact, the teaching of the New Testament makes it clear that we can only become God's children by being born again, and that is given by heaven. A man is not naturally a child of the Father, but can only become a child of God through His grace in adoption and the new birth.

2. Adoption – Given With Authority - A person becomes God's child on the basis of the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing else. It is not our own doing, it is all of Him, we are adopted into God's family because of His saving work. What assurance this gives the believer, our position in Christ is not dependent on us, it is dependent on Him, it is His work, His authority. What boldness the believer should have in rejoicing in the provision and privilege that God has granted to him in Christ!

3. Adoption – Gained Through Faith - How do you become a child of God? How does that special relationship become mine? There is one answer to this question, it is repeated throughout the New Testament, the only way that you can become a child of God is through faith. The Bible says that you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and repenting of your sin, you must believe that by means of his death and resurrection that He is your Saviour. Faith is a gift, and it is also something to be confessed. The Bible does not condone secret discipleship, rather, it teaches that Christ should be confessed publicly. Such a verbal testimony is important because it gives an indication to the reality of faith. There is nothing that can compare with being a child of God and the manner which Christ died as our substitute to secure our adoption if we will trust in Him. The privileges that we have of knowing the love and care of our heavenly Father, the access we have to Him in prayer, the assurance of knowing that whatever we face, we face it with Him, and a certain hope, that He will keeps us and then take us to heaven.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs