

Children of God

Reading-John 1.9-13



Focus In

The light of the World in Christ is shining for everyone to see. However, John now makes the point that many do not recognise him. Though the World was made through him, many do not receive him and though he came to the Jewish people first, many chose to reject him.

In contrast now, those who receive him and believe in him are made the children of God. Children adopted into God's family are the result, not of biological life, but spiritual new birth. Through faith in Christ, the light of the World, we are born again.

This doctrine of adoption into God's family is a very strong one in the New Testament. You can read more about it, for example, in Romans 8.14-17 & also later in John's 1st letter 3.1-3. John's Gospel also picks it up again in Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus in chapter 3 when he tells him that he must be born again. Being a Christian is not a result of birth, but supernatural re-birth as Children of God.

Discussion Starters

.Why do people, in your experience, still reject him today? Do you think that there is a deliberate choice involved or just an apathy?

.How do you understand this difference between being born naturally and being born again into God's family? Is it important to you to think of yourself as a child of God?

.This whole passage is famously read at Carol services each Christmas. What do you think people make of it? How would you further explain it to someone wanting to understand?

.Born again as children of God makes us part of the family of God. Do you think that sense of family has increased or decreased during this time of fewer opportunities to meet together?

Prayer time

Please pray for any needs that are known to you as a group. Please also pray for our individual and Church family witness to the light of the World this Advent.