

Word Made Flesh

Light Abounds in the
Darkest Places
John 1:6-13
December 12, 2021

MAIN POINT: Receive the Son, the light of the world, and walk in the light as he is in the light (cf. 1 John 1:5-7).

I. THE WITNESS OF THE MOON (vv. 6-8)

- John the Baptist (vv. 6-7a, 8)
 - The one who would testify to the light (cf. Matt. 3; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3)
- The Purpose of John's Testimony (v. 7b)
 - Point away from himself to the light so that all might believe through him (cf. John 3:27-36)

II. RESPONSES TO THE SON (vv. 9-13)

- The Illuminating Presence of the Son (v. 9)
 - This genuine light-giving presence shines light into the darkness and makes sight possible.
 - Foreshadows of the light that was coming into the world are seen throughout Isaiah (Isa. 8:20-9:7; 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 60:1-3)
- Many Continue to Love the Darkness (vv. 10-11; cf. 3:19-21)
 - The world did not know the Son, though it was brought into existence through him (v. 10; cf. v. 5); the Jews did not receive the Son, though Scripture confirms that he is the Messiah they had been waiting for (v. 11).
- Some Come to the Light (vv. 12-13)
 - To receive the Son is to believe in his name, and this is to believe in all that he said he is and all that he came to do (v. 12a).
 - Those who receive and believe in the Son receive from the Son the authority/power/right to become children of God (v. 12b).

- John describes those in Christ as children of God (John 11:52, 1 John 3:1, 2, 10; 5:2), and Paul describes those in Christ as both children of God (Rom. 8:16, 17, 21; Phil. 2:15) and sons of God (Rom. 8:14, 19; Gal. 3:26).
- John reserves the title "son of God" for the eternal Son... Jesus is the Son by nature; we are children by adoption.
 - Those who receive the Son are those who have been born of God (v. 13).
 - This new birth, which is a monergistic work (i.e., an alone work) of God, produces faith (1 John 5:1), righteousness (cf. 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 5:18), love (cf. 1 John 4:7), and victory over the world (cf. 1 John 5:4).
 - The means by which God brings this new birth to pass is by the power of the Holy Spirit through the proclamation of the gospel of the Son (cf. John 3:1-8; Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 4:1-6; 1 Pet. 1:22-26).

Suggested Reading:

Finally Alive by John Piper

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 1:6-13

1. How does John the Evangelist's description that John the Baptist testified to the light so that "all might believe through him" impact what it means to testify to the light? Should that be distinct from how we typically understand "testimonies"?
2. Considering that there are only two responses to the light that shines in the darkness, and what believing and receiving the Son actually entails, how have you responded to the Son?
3. Take some time to discuss the reality of being adopted into the family of God through the work of triune God. What are the privileges of children of God, both present and future?
4. Even though there may be disagreement on the topic, how does the relationship of regeneration (i.e., the new birth) and faith impact how we understand God's work in salvation? Remember, be kind in your disagreements!