

RESPONDING TO THE ETERNAL WORD

John 1:6-13

How have you responded to the coming of Jesus into our world?

1.GOD CALLS US TO BELIEVE IN HIM: GOD SENT A WITNESS FOR THE WORD - John 1:6-8

- A witness was sent by God to the Light, the eternal Word – Jesus. This witness was John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah – Malachi 3:1; Luke 1:76,77; John 1:23. John was sent by God to introduce Jesus to the world - John 5:35. John was a witness to the Light so that all might believe in Jesus – John 1:15, 29,30.
- John was not the light, but a witness to the Light. We are called today to be like John in his role as a witness – Acts 1:8.

2.BUT HUMANITY IN UNBELIEF IS REJECTING THE WORD – John 1:9-11

- The Eternal Word – Jesus Christ – is the One who enlightens our dark world. Whatever light there is comes from Jesus Christ. God the Son coming into our world in the Person of Jesus is *“the invasion of the true light”*. Christ always divides humanity into two groups: those who reject Him and those who receive Him. His light always shines whether we see it or not.
- The sad reality is that the world does not know their Creator! Jesus Christ came to His own creation, and they did not know Him. It still does not know Christ our Creator, the Eternal Word. Many reject Christ today by indifference or ignoring Him. *“When Jesus came to Birmingham they simply passed Him by, They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die; For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him pain, They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.” – G.A. Studdert-Kennedy.*
- Christ came in His incarnation to His own place or home. He came to His own people, but His own people did not receive Him. Israel was waiting for their Messiah for centuries, and when He came, they rejected Him – Isaiah 53:1-3. This unbelief brought tears to Jesus – Luke 13:34; 19:41,42. Paul also wept for Israel – Romans 9:2. But it is not Israel, it is still the majority of humanity that is rejecting Jesus. *“The continuing widespread rejection of Christ in our generation is a daily witness to the universal rebellion against the living God in which each of us is involved. It is also a sobering reminder of the inevitability of coming judgment.” – Bruce Milne, John.* There is a coming judgment for all who reject Jesus – John 3:18; 36.

3.HOWEVER, SOME ARE RECEIVING THE WORD BY BELIEVING INTO HIM – John 1:12-13

- But thanks be to God not everyone rejects Christ! As many as receive Him become children of God. We receive Jesus by believing in His name. Believing means to entrust yourself to Christ. *“...the phrase ‘believe in’ depicts the total commitment of one’s total self to the person of Christ as Messiah and Lord, something more than an intellectual acceptance of the message of the gospel and a recognition of the truth about Christ, although these aspects are involved. For John, belief involves not only recognition and acceptance of the truth but also adherence and allegiance to Jesus as the Truth...to believe in Jesus is to come to Him, to receive Him, to drink the water He offers, to follow Him, and to love Him.” – Murray Harris, John.*
- Only the Eternal Word, Jesus Christ, gives us the right or authority to become God’s children. Many people think that everyone is a child of God, but the Bible teaches only those who receive

Jesus by believing in Him are God's children. Because of receiving Christ, we actually become God's children – 1 John 3:1,2.

- Behind every decision to receive Christ is God's decision to give that person new life. We are not God's children by genetics, or human decision or will. Those who believe in Jesus Christ do not become God's children by any natural means, but *"They owe their spiritual rebirth to the action of God Himself."* We are not saved by our own will – James 1:18; John 6:44; 64,65. We are God's children by being born of God – John 3:7,8. We can take no credit at all even for our faith – Ephesians 2:8,9. *"Those who receive the Word are identical with those who believe in His name, and they are identical with those who are born of God."* – D.A. Carson, John.

Concluding applications:

- How have you responded to the Light, Jesus, coming into our world?
- Are you bearing witness to the light of Jesus in your daily life?
- What does being part of God's family mean to you?
- How is your life radically altered by being a child of God?