

**Livin' the Life**  
**The Light that Creates Life**  
**John 1:9-13**  
October 15, 2017

We are in the third week of our series on the Gospel of John, "Livin' the Life." So far, we have seen that John's purpose in writing is that we *believe* that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing we may have *life* in his name, which is the very life of God. Today we continue looking the Eternal Word who is life and the light of humanity with "The Light that Creates Life" looking at 1:9-13. Big Idea – Jesus, the eternal and invisible Word became the visible light to make dead people alive through the new birth.

**The Light Comes to Reveal God To us (vs. 9-11)**

"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." The invisible Word that was with God in eternity and is God and created everything becomes the visible light of God who gives light to everyone. In a pluralistic world of many religions, all claiming to be a path to God, he is the only genuine light. "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him (10)." His coming was the light shining into the darkness, the world of moral darkness, a fallen and sinful world in rebellion against God. This darkness as we have seen is evil, sin, and unbelief. The Bible tells us that God created humanity to have a loving and trusting relationship with him yet humanity rejected this and fell into sin. Since then sin has been wreaking havoc, creating chaos and destruction. What we hear about in our world today is not new, but is an age old problem called sin. Our sinfulness is so pervasive that we cannot save ourselves so God sends the invisible Word to be the visible light. The Creator comes to his fallen creation but his creatures reject him. The world did not recognize him, it rejected him. Not only did the world reject him but his own people rejected him (11). So, the Messiah, Israel's King, whom the Old Testament promised would deliver them was rejected by them. John expounds on this rejection in 3:19-20, "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed." The inescapable human bent is to reject the light, to justify our lack of need for the light, and to dismiss the light. We are all naturally repelled, actively or passively, by the light. Notice the reason why we reject him, people loved darkness rather than the light because their works (their thoughts, desires, and actions) are evil (3:19). Every single one of us are born with this condition. We naturally hate the light so do not naturally come to the light. So, the first truth we see is that the Eternal Son of God comes as the light to reveal God the Father to us yet we reject him because our corrupt human nature repels the light. And yet not everyone rejects the light; some in fact embrace the light. And so, the second truth we see from this text is that the light creates a division in humanity.

**The Light Creates a Division (vs. 12-13)**

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (12-13). Receive and believe are almost synonymous words in John's gospel. There were some who saw him, Jews and Gentiles, who believed. It started with the twelve, a remnant from Israel, and then Gentiles who together make up the new Messianic community, the new people of God, the church. So, the promise to Abraham of his decedents would fill the earth is being fulfilled in the church. Believing is more than intellectual ascent, acknowledging facts. It means to give allegiance to, to be loyal to, to obey, and to embrace Jesus for who he is, the coming King. To those who believe, they are given the right to become the children of God with all the rights and privileges that come to children. Our status changes from being God's enemies to being his children. This is our human experience, we believe and we become children of God. But then he gives the divine perspective. John, under the inspiration of the Spirit, wants us to understand that there is nothing within us that gives us the moral capacity to believe. So, he gives us three negative phrases to show that the new birth does not find its source in the human will (13). We do not become children of God by religious

or family heritage, like Jews who thought they were automatically children of God by virtue of being Jewish (8:39-42). Nor do we become children of God by human volition, exercising our own willpower. And we do not become children of God by the will of a husband. Referencing a patriarchal society where the men determined things. His point is that our believing and becoming children of God does not find its origin in human ability and human will, but is solely the work of God (6:29). The new birth, whereby we become children of God, does not find its origin in human ability but in God and his grace (3:21). Christianity is God making spiritually dead people alive. When we respond positively to the light, it is because our ability to see Jesus Christ for who he truly is and say yes is because the Spirit is working persuasively and decisively by God's power and grace (1 Jn 5 :1). Grace negates human effort; grace rules out human effort.

### **Take Aways . . .**

- The Light Divides, which side are you on?
- As Witnesses, need to pray for those who do not know Christ
- Salvation is the work of God.

### **Life Group Questions:**

1. What comes to you mind when you think of Jesus being the light?
2. How does Jesus as the light reveal God to us?
3. Do you think we naturally reject and are repelled by the light as David said?
4. How do you define believing in Jesus? Based upon your definitions, what are other words we could use for believing?
5. Why do some people believe and others don't?
6. Do you know individuals who think they are Christians because they are religious, spiritual, moral, or American? What would you say to them based upon this text?
7. Do you know someone God has put in your life that needs Jesus? What are you doing to be a witness to them? What could you do to be intentional about sharing the gospel?
8. Do you regularly pray for this person (s)? Can we pray for them tonight?
9. What do you think about holding each other accountable for people we want to share the gospel with?

