

HOW TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD

John 1:11-13

Introduction: Just how does one become a Christian, a Child of God? Within our text is the answer. First it is answered negatively, how one can't become a Child of God and then the question is answered positively, how one does become a Child of God. There are three ways mentioned that one cannot become a Child of God and the ONLY way by which one can become a Child of God is given. Notice:

I. "NOT OF BLOOD..."

1. You may inherit a great many natural characteristics from your parents, such as tastes, features, dispositions, etc.
2. You may NOT inherit the grace of God, even though you may have Christian parents and your whole family is Christian except you.
3. A pastor, in witnessing by handing out tracts, was informed by a woman that she was religious also. The pastor then asked her if she had been born again to which she replied, "oh yes, my father has been religious, my grandfather had also been religious. The pastor asked her again if she had been born again and was told by the woman that he didn't seem to understand. Her father was a Sunday School teacher and her grandfather had been a deacon, her uncle and two brothers were preachers. Religion ran in her family. The pastor asked her if she expected to go to heaven hanging on the coat tails of her relatives. She couldn't understand how a family as religious as hers she could need "regenerating" or to be born again.
4. Have you been "hanging" on to somebody else's religion as yours? Just because members of your family are Christians does not make you one. *"...ye must be born again..."* One is not a Christian because he/she happens to be born into a Christian family.

II. "NOT OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH..."

1. What exactly does that mean? It means simply that you cannot make yourself a Christian by any self-determination. You cannot say, "I have made up my mind that from today on, I am going to be a Christian." That does not make you one.
 - It is very good that one comes to this decision but it won't make him/her a child of God, close, yes, but not yet.
 - If you were to be born in some foreign country that has a king or queen and decided to become a member of that royal family, you could dress like one, talk like one, act like one, but you would not really be one because you had not been born into that royal family.
2. No one ever becomes a Child of God simply by making up his/her mind that he/she was one. If one could become a Christian simply by saying he/she was one, then Jesus never needed to suffer and die as He did. Why did He go to the cross, if you could simply by an act of your will make yourself a Christian?
3. You, nor anybody else has the power to make yourself a Christian than you could make yourself the King or Queen of England or anywhere else. You have not been born into the royal family nor have you been born into the family of God.
4. You must be born into the Family, the Kingdom of God.

III. "NOT OF MAN..."

1. There is no one from the Catholic Pope to the most humble Baptist preacher that can make you a Christian. No matter how "holy" he might be among men. He might baptize you. He might recommend that you be received into the Church for membership. But he cannot make you a Christian by nominating or voting you into the membership of some Church.

2. The story goes that an Evangelist was visiting a church and sat in on a business meeting. Some people were to be voted on to become new members. Each one was to give a brief testimony. The first person said that he had felt that he should join the church and finally made up his mind to do so because his parents were members there. The Evangelist asked the man if he had been born again and immediately the pastor jumped up and asked the Evangelist to refrain from commenting or asking embarrassing questions. The man was voted in. The second man said he wasn't what he ought to be, had turned over a new leaf on New Year's day and thought it would help him if he was a Church member. They voted him in. The third man said that he wasn't in the habit of attending that particular denomination, that he had come over from another country, had been baptized by the Archbishop of Canterbury and he liked this Church and its services. He thought he'd like to join the church. He was voted in. The fourth man said his wife and children were all members there but he had been a drunken sinner, on his way to hell but found Jesus Christ who made him a new person and now he wanted to become active for Jesus. They voted him in.
 - Here are three ways by which you cannot become a Child of God. One thought he was a Christian because his parents were. Another had turned over a new leaf and the third because a "great" man of the Church had baptized him.
 - Only in the fourth man is the way to become a Christian revealed. Believing in Jesus, being converted.

IV. THE DIVINE WAY TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD

1. ***"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."***
 - This is very different than "lip" confession of being a Christian, from turning over a new leaf, from joining a Church, being baptized or things like these. ***"...as many as received Him..."*** means just this:
 - That the lost sinner comes to the place where he/she has tried almost everything and finally comes to Christ and says, "Come in, come in and cleanse me, forgive me, and save my soul."
 - No one that has ever called upon Jesus Christ to come in has ever been disappointed.
2. Jesus said: ***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with Me."***
 - One's heart's door has to be opened from the inside. YOU must invite Christ into your life.
3. What does it mean to "believe on His name?"
 - It means to put your trust in Him. We are lost, guilty sinners. Jesus is the Son of God who came down to this earth as a human. He was put to death for our sins.
4. What is it I need to believe in order to be saved, to become a Christian, a Child of God?
 - ***"Repent ye, and believe the gospel.."*** What is the Gospel? It is the good news about Jesus, His dying, His being buried, His resurrection.
5. ***"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."***

CONCLUSION:

Don't believe in an "intellectual" way. If you realize that you are a lost person, on your way to hell this very moment, and you want to be saved, then yield your trust in Christ and God will save you, if you yield and trust from your heart. To become a Child of God, you must do it God's way.