

## **Starting a Relationship with God**

Aren't we all God's children? In the sense that God made all of humankind, we are indeed all God's children. We are all made in the image of God. However, there is a significant difference between being created by God, knowing about God, and being in a meaningful relationship with God. The question is, "How does one enter into a meaningful relationship with God that results in forgiveness, fellowship, and eternal life?"

In my opinion, one of the most concise yet thorough answers to that question is found in the Gospel of John, chapter one. All the theological necessities and nuances (confession, repentance, grace, etc.) associated with entering a meaningful relationship with God are not discussed in detail in that chapter, which is often the case. Most discussions recorded in the Bible are predicated upon the assumption of specific facts. However, the bottom line is clearly described.

The bottom line is stated in verse twelve, "Yet to all who receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (NIV) "Believing in his name" is the catalyst. Believing, in this case, is not merely an acknowledgment of the reality of his person. As suggested in the first phrase, "Yet to all who received him," affirms the difference between merely acknowledging his existence and entering (receiving) a special connection with Jesus.

A careful reading of chapter one clarifies the beliefs about Jesus. He was God. In Him was life (eternal life). He is the one who gives light (understanding). When anyone accepts (receives) who Jesus is, they receive the right to become children of God.

We do not become what we already are. Becoming a child of God is the Apostle John's way of describing the relationship we enter when we have acknowledged our sin, understood the consequences, affirm the resurrection of Jesus, and accept (receive) Jesus as our own Savior.

In a broad metaphorical sense, we can say that because God created us that we are all the children of God. Entering and enjoying a Father/child relationship with God results from receiving Jesus as our Savior. If your relationship with God through Jesus is not a settled matter in your mind, we will be thrilled to guide you to the assurance that you are a child of God with all that is implied in that relationship!

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