

## **WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD?**

1 John 3:1 ... “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!...”

It is popular, even among the unsaved, to refer to everyone as “children of God.” We hear this in defense of the poor, when people are critical of the way others are treated, or when people do bad things. “They are still children of God,” is what people say to defend the actions of misguided individuals. But, is everyone a child of God?

First, God, through Christ, created each and everyone of us. That makes us his possession, which is what gives God the authority to judge us. Everything in the universe, having been created by God, is his possession. But, only through a voluntary spiritual act and transformation do we become God’s children.

John 1:12 reads: “But as many as received Him [Christ], to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name.” Romans 8:14 reads: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” And, in verse 16: “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Only born-again believers have the Holy Spirit living in them, so this is only possible for believers.

Not everyone is a child of God. More people reject God than those who accept him. More people reject salvation, than those who accept it. Christ said in Matthew 7:13: “Enter [into a relationship with him and an eternity in heaven] by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction; and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

In 1 John 2:28 through 3:2, we are told that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him (Christ) which gives us the right to be called children of God.

You may not like the way that the Bible presents this topic. You may not approve of limiting the title “Child of God,” only to believers. Your compassionate nature may prefer to think of all people as children of God. However, your view on the matter does not change the truth of God’s Word, which makes it very clear that a child of God can only be a person who makes Christ their Lord and Savior.

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