



The Gift Everyone Needs to Receive

Series: *The Best Gift of All* John 1:11-13

December 10, 2017

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The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us John 1:14

How should we receive the gift of Christ?

1. Receive Christ with **thankfulness**; because it didn't cost you anything
John 1:14

2. Receive Christ with **humility**; because you can't afford it
2 Corinthians 9:15

3. Receive Christ with **joy**; because you don't deserve it
John 1:12-13; Romans 8:15; John 1:12; Galatians 4:4-5; Revelation 2:10

Growth Group Questions

All references from New International Version (NIV)

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Share about a time in your life when you received a Christmas present that was totally unexpected and you were completely surprised.
2. Have you ever had to ask for 'benevolence help' to get you through a challenging financial time in your life? Was it hard to do? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week Brian emphasized John 1:12 which says, "¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." The only way to celebrate the gift of Jesus is to 'receive' that gift. What do the following verses say about what we receive when we believe?

Galatians 3:26

²⁶So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

1 John 3:23

²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

1 John 5:4-5

⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:13

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

When did you receive Jesus Christ?

What does it mean to you that you are a 'child of God'? What does it mean to you that every other person in our group is not only a friend, but a brother or sister?

2. Brian mentioned three ways we should receive the gift of Christ. The first way is, 'We should receive Christ with thankfulness.' Read the following verses and identify what the Apostle Paul is thanking God for.

1 Corinthians 15:57

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

2 Corinthians 9:15

¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Ephesians 5:20

²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you ever exchanged gifts with someone and that person spent way more on your gift than you could afford to spend on theirs? How did that make you feel? Was there a part of you that didn't want to 'receive' it?

What are you thankful to God for right now?

3. Brian told us to 'Receive Christ with humility'. He talked about the many ways that Lakewood has served others during this Christmas season. God has given us so much, it is a joy to give back. What do these verses say about giving?

Proverbs 19:17

¹⁷ Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Matthew 5:42

⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Luke 12:48b

⁴⁸ From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

James 4:17

¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is a sin for them.

Do you think pride ever gets in the way of someone receiving Jesus Christ? If so, what does that look like?

At Lakewood we are taking steps to become a ‘praying church’. Have you ever filled out the ‘prayer request’ section of a ‘Connection Card’ on Sunday morning? Or, have you ever stopped and asked one of the Prayer Team members to pray with you? If not, why not?

4. Brian told us to ‘Receive Christ with joy’. We looked at the idea of adoption and the privilege we have to be adopted into the family of God. Read these verses and look at the difference between being a ‘slave’ and being a ‘son’.

John 8:34-36

³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 8:15-17

¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Galatians 4:7-9

⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. ⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Were you adopted? Did you adopt a child? Did you grow up with an adopted brother or sister? Do you know people who have adopted? How was that adopted child viewed in their family?

In what ways do you sometimes act like a ‘slave’ instead of a ‘son’ or ‘daughter’ of God?

How does it feel to call God “Abba”, which means “Daddy”?

TAKING IT HOME

Based on this week’s sermon and homework, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?