

Must Receive Christ

John 1:12

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“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name” (John 1:12).

Some time ago I came across a story that had a remarkable ending. It was the story of a wife who became infatuated by the attentions of another man. Soon she left her husband and the two of them began driving across the U.S. in the man's automobile.

After being on the road for just a few hours they were involved in a terrible accident. Some people were killed and she herself was taken to the hospital, paralyzed from the neck down. The man she had been with deserted her and she was left helpless and alone.

After days of remorse and agony she swallowed her pride. She called her husband and told him the whole story. She wondered what he would say, what his attitude would be, and prepared herself for a bitter tirade. She fully expected to be read off and thought that he would make preparations to leave her in her miserable state.

The hour came when he arrived. He came bouncing into the room, smiled, waved his hand and said, “Hi ya beautiful!” He kissed her, took her home, and cared for her in love and tenderness. To me that was a surprise ending.

By way of contrast, think of what happened to Jesus. The context of our verse says, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:11).

As a loving father comes home to his wife and children, so Christ came to His own. You would have expected them to have welcomed Him with open arms. He did not come un-expectedly.

The Word of God had plainly stated when and where to expect him. They knew what tribe and family He would arise. He came among them introduced by miraculous signs and wonders. But not only did they not welcome Him, they fortified themselves against Him.

But here is the strangest thing of all. The chief priests were the ringleaders in this contempt and rejection. Why do I say that is strange? Because they were from God's own specially chosen men who had taught the Word of God and were under God's direct command and authority.

Today, why do men reject Christ? The main reason is not intellectual but moral. They will not part with their sins. They will not have Him to reign over them.

Some do, in fact, receive Him and believe on His blessed Name: the Lord our Righteousness, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus our Savior. When we do that we are afforded the highest honor of heaven; we become sons and daughters of the living God.

Have you ever received Him? If not, why not? You can do it right now.

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