

John 1:6-13, “The Light of the World & the Children of God”

Introductory Outline:

- 1:6-8 Introducing John: the witness, not the light.
1:9-11 The true light in the world: not received by His own.
1:12-13 Children of God: human responsibility & divine sovereignty

1:6-8

Belief (faith) consists of 3 elements:

- *Notitia* – Knowledge
- *Assensus* – Assent
- *Fiducia* – Trust

1:9

“Gives light to everyone??” 3 ways to explain this statement:

1. General Revelation. Illuminating every man. Enough to condemn, not to save.
2. Augustine. Like having only one school teacher in the entire city, he is said to be the teacher of all, though not all people go to the school. He gives light to all who receive it.
3. D. A. Carson. The Greek verb means to give light, to make something visible, thus light is not referring to inner illumination here. Rather, light came upon the world through the Son of God’s incarnation. “*It shines on every man, and divides the race ... (he) forces a distinction.*”

What is “the world?” It can be taken in three ways:

- The world of creation, the universe (neutral).
- The world of humanity (Jn. 3:16).
- The world of sin & rebellion.

1:13

- “Not of blood” – Parents or human descent
- “Nor of the will of the flesh” – Desire
- “Nor of the will of man” – Actions of another