

Things I Learned from Charlie Brown – Week 3

Main Text: John 1:10-14

Opening Questions: *What are positive ways we can set the mood for Christmas? What are some negative ways? How can we avoid creating our own agenda during the Advent Season?*

1) Counterintuitive: The Creator became His creation but was not received. (10-11)

- What are examples of Advent head knowledge verses Advent heart knowledge?
- How have some created their own Advent story? How is this different than the biblical account? (2 Pet. 1:19-21)
- How can one easily create syncretism with the incarnation message? How can we guard against this?

2) Counterintuitive: We are given the right to become children of God. (12-13)

- What does it mean to be “given the right”? Can you think of personal examples? Share with the group.
- How is the Christmas narrative a paradox?
- “Born again” means we both *receive* and *believe*. What does it mean to both receive Christ and believe in Him? Are these mutually exclusive, why or why not?
- How can we live an incarnational life?

3) Counterintuitive: The glory of God dwelt among man. (14)

- What type of Messiah was Israel expecting? What tyranny did they want freedom from? If not careful, how can we repeat this error in nationalizing God instead of seeking His Kingdom on earth?
- In Jesus Christ the glory of God is revealed as grace (Rom. 3:23-24) and truth (Eph 1:13). Discuss the importance of grace and truth in our lives. How can we both live and model grace and truth?
- Discuss the Advent message of believe, receive, and reflect. How have you experienced these 3 steps?