

Message #11**I John 2:28-3:3**

The Apostle John wanted God's people to have fellowship with God for many reasons. But undoubtedly one of the main reasons was so that when we face Jesus Christ we will not be ashamed.

JESUS CHRIST IS GOING TO APPEAR AND TAKE GOD'S CHILDREN TO BE WITH HIM AND IN VIEW OF THIS STUPENDOUS REALITY, GOD'S CHILDREN NEED TO REMAIN IN A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BY PURSUING A LIFE THAT IS RIGHTEOUS AND PURE.

The word "children" is the word that refers to a child of either sex, who is begotten or born into a family. This address is specifically made to the offspring of God (Smith, p. 442).

Observation #1 - The key to facing Jesus Christ confidently is a continual abiding. **2:28**

This theme of "abiding" is critical to God. It is not starting that is so significant; it is remaining or abiding that is so significant.

Observation #2 - The appearing of Jesus Christ will be the Rapture of the Church. **2:28**

Jesus Christ will appear in the sky to take God's children to heaven and when this happens, there will be the sense of facing Christ with confidence or shame.

REASON #1 – We should remain in close fellowship with God by pursuing righteousness and purity so we will not be ashamed. **2:28**

The word "confidence" is one that was used in Greek of honored political leaders who had a right to speak and voice their vote and opinion on various issues. This particular word was used of one of high rank and privilege. The word "shame" speaks of being one who is dishonorable, one who is a disgrace, one who is totally ashamed (Smith, p. 14).

REASON #2 – We should remain in close fellowship with God by pursuing righteousness and purity because we know this is the character of God. **2:29**

There are two words for "know" used in this verse. The first is oida, which refers to knowledge grasped directly or intuitively. The second is ginosko, which refers to knowledge grasped by instruction and reflection.

God did not save us so we could live a life of unrighteousness.

REASON #3 – We should remain in close fellowship with God by pursuing righteousness and purity because of the great love of God in calling us children of God. **3:1**

Every one of us who are saved should be totally amazed that God loved us and saved us. By the way, the emphasis here is on God the Father. God the Father, in His holy and esteemed rank as first member of the Godhead, actually loved us. He loved us and saved us so we might be called children of God. The word “children” is teknia, which refers to His offspring. We are literally called the offspring of God and indeed we are because He has caused us to be born again.

The fact that we are not known or identified as children of God should not prevent us from pursuing righteousness and purity when we consider the love of God.

REASON #4 – We should remain in close fellowship with God by pursuing righteousness and purity because of what we ultimately will be like. **3:2**

There are two Greek words used for “like.” One is “isos” which speaks of equality in size, number of value. The other “omoios” speaks of likeness in the sense of qualitative comparison. The word “like” here is the Greek word that refers to likeness in qualitative comparison. We will never be equal to Christ, but we will have a Christ-like look and focus. The reality of who we are has not yet been revealed, but it will be. There will come a day when we will have a look like that of Jesus Christ.

REASON #5 – We should remain in close fellowship with God by pursuing righteousness and purity because of the purifying hope this gives us. **3:3**

Those who pursue righteousness and purity have a hope that is pure concerning the appearing of Jesus Christ. They want Christ to return. Everyone who has this hope purifies himself with it.

If you are here without Jesus Christ, may I ask what your hope is. What do you hope will happen when you leave this world?