



Are You Living in Full Confidence with Christ?

1 John 2:28-3:10

July 19, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Christ wants us to live before Him in full confidence | John 2:28

"Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming"

Confidence =

The importance of confidence: see the Digging Deeper on the back

How to grow in our confidence before Christ | John 2:29-3:10

- **Experience the great love of our Heavenly Father.** | John 2:29-3:1
"If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him. See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."
 - **He gives us His righteousness through our spiritual birth** (v.29)
"...everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him..."
 - **He calls us His children**
"...that we would be called children of God; and such we are..."
 - **He invites us into a unique knowledge and experience with Him**
"...For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."
- **Live with an expectant hope of Christ's return—to heal our imperfections** | John 3:2-3
"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

Philippians 3:21
- **Recognize how sin destroys our confidence before God** | John 3:4
"Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."

Lawlessness erases God's healthy boundaries for our growth.

Matthew 7:21-23
- **Ask Jesus to take away your sins.** | John 3:5-6
"You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him."

Abide in Jesus to avoid additional sins.
- **Turn from the deception of Satan to the deliverance through Christ** | John 3:7-9
"Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God"

John 12:31, Hebrews 2:14
- **So, who's your daddy?** | John 3:10
"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."

Digging Deeper:

One of John's focus points is the second coming of Jesus. John lived with Jesus for three years on earth, watched Him die in agony on the cross, and then experienced the wonder of Jesus' resurrected life. Some of the last words John heard about Jesus is that He is going to return (Acts 1:11). Many believed He would return in their lifetime. Therefore, John is motivated in how he lives by the prospect of Jesus' return. This point is evident in today's passage in I John 2:28-3:3. And because we live in a world that is so contrary to God's values, we can lose heart and confidence as we try to remain faithful to Jesus. So John encourages us to be confident in Christ so we can live our daily lives abiding in Him.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Below are some passages that teach us the importance of being confident in Christ. Read and reflect on what they teach you on the importance of our confidence.

- **Confidence to overcome a world which undermines our lives and values: Acts 4:13**
"Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus."
- **Confidence before God when we may lose heart: Ephesians 3:11**
"This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory."
- **Confidence when I am weak or inadequate: Hebrews 4:15-16**
"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
- **Confidence when I pray: I John 3:21-22**
"Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight."
- **Confidence when I feel fearful and unloved: I John 4:17**
"By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us."

Satan wants us to lose confidence in Christ. That's why John says in I John 3:8 that Jesus came to "destroy the works of the devil." Below are some of the "works of the devil." When and where have you seen Satan's attack in these areas?

- **Genesis 3:1 – Question the truthfulness and relevance of God's Word.** "Indeed did God say..."
- **Genesis 3:4 – We can disobey God with no concern for consequences in this life and in eternity.**
"You surely will not die."
- **Genesis 3:5 – We can be good enough and gain eternal life through your own efforts.** "you will be like God..."
- **Genesis 3:5 – We have the right to determine what is sin and what is permissible. Truth is relative.**
"Knowing good and evil."
- **Luke 8:12 – Prevent nonbelievers from believing in Jesus**
"... the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved."
- **John 8:44 – Devalue the importance of truth.** "...the devil...does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
- **I Corinthians 7:5 – Tempt us to fail in marriage**
"...come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."
- **II Corinthians 10:3-5 – Deny any true knowledge about God with false speculations.**
"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"
- **Revelation 12:9-10 – Deceive and accuse us to create doubt, uncertainty and shame in our allegiance to Christ.**
"Satan, who deceives the whole world... the accuser of our brethren..."

Next Step:

Connect in a LifeGroup for support and encouragement to grow in your faith with others. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary's campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups



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