

28 And now, little children, abide in Him,  
so that  
when He appears  
we may have confidence<sup>1</sup>  
and not shrink from Him in shame<sup>2</sup> at His coming.  
29 If you know  
that He is righteous,  
you may be sure  
that everyone  
who practices righteousness  
has been born of Him.

3:1 See  
         what kind of love the Father has given to us,  
                 that we should be called children of God;  
         and so we are<sup>3</sup>.  
 The reason  
         why the world does not know us<sup>4</sup>  
         is that it did not know Him<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now,  
and what we will be has not yet appeared<sup>6</sup>;  
but we know  
that  
when He appears  
we shall be like Him,  
because we shall see Him  
as He is.

<sup>3</sup> And everyone  
    who thus hopes in Him  
 purifies himself<sup>7</sup>  
    as He is pure.

<sup>4</sup> Everyone

<sup>1</sup> Elsewhere confidence is the description of our current access to God because of Jesus (Heb. 4:16, 10:19). John here says that confidence continues to the day of Jesus' return and His final judgment (1 John 4:17).

<sup>2</sup> Adam and Eve originally were naked with one another and felt no shame. Shame came because of their sin and they tried to hide themselves from each other and from God.

<sup>3</sup> Apart from Jesus we are defined by our sin (see Titus 3:3, Rom. 6:17, Eph. 2:1, Col. 1:21 for example), but now we are defined by our relationship to Jesus (Gal. 3:26). Our Baptismal certificate serves as our adoption papers (Rom. 6:3ff.!) What does it mean to be a child of God? What benefits does a child enjoy?

<sup>4</sup> Again, think about the use of the word “know” throughout the Bible. What is it that the world doesn’t know about John and his audience?

<sup>5</sup> What is it that the world didn't know about Jesus?

<sup>6</sup> While we as Christians have the gift of eternal life now, we know that we do not yet experience the fullness of the new life God has begun in us (see Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 13:12, 15:35ff.; Col. 3:3-4). What is left to come (Rom. 8:18)? What do you yearn for?

<sup>7</sup> What is “cheap grace”? How does John show that it has no place among Christians?

who makes a practice of sinning<sup>8</sup>  
also practices lawlessness;  
sin is lawlessness.

<sup>5</sup> You know  
that He appeared  
in order to take away sins,  
and in Him there is no sin.

<sup>6</sup> No one  
who abides in Him  
keeps on sinning;  
no one  
who keeps on sinning  
has  
either seen Him  
or known Him.

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<sup>8</sup> Notice how John makes his argument here. He says that all who have faith in Jesus will purify themselves. What does that mean? Does that mean we will cease to sin? So what is it that John is saying Christians should NOT be doing? How does this fit in with 1 John 1:8 "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."?