

North Wilmington Bockrath Fellowship Group

February 28, 2004

1 John 2:28-3:3 (NIV)

²⁸And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

^{3:1}How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Questions for Discussion:

1. In what practical ways can believers "continue in" Christ? How might that add to our confidence and unashamed attitudes before Christ at his coming? (Or, if you prefer to first consider the "coming" mentioned by John, how does that motivate you to continue in Christ?)
2. John introduces in this epistle the concept of rebirth. What does being born of God mean? Is John teaching here that the means of rebirth is personal righteousness? If not, what does he mean here?
3. Do you ever get discouraged that the world does not recognize you as a child of God? Do you first hold to the reality that you are truly a child of God right here and now? (In what ways does John make that more "real" for you here?)
4. As Christians we are challenged with the dimly seen future of things that will be made known. Can we even grasp a fraction of the reality of what it means to "be like him" when he appears? How is hope in this related to purifying ourselves?