

***Confidence At His Coming!***  
**1 John 2:28-4:19**

***Abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence before Him (1 John 2:28).***

As a father protecting his little children, John warns his friends that the false teachers who have left their assemblies will steal the greatest joy any believer will ever know—the joy of life in the family of God. The theme of First John is *fellowship*—that experience of intimacy with Christ and His people only available to those who belong to Him. The passion of John is, “don’t lose it by listening to these lying teachers. True joy is based on apostolic truth and is only possible in fellowship with God” (1:1-4).

This joy is not confined to our existence here on earth as Christians. A day is coming when every believer will stand before the Savior to give an account for his or her life. Imagine staring into the face of Christ! Just the two of you as you see your life from His perspective—you see what He sees.

- No hiding—it’s all there.
- No spinning—all of your excuses are gone.
- No attorney to defend you or counselor to explain away your decisions.
- The look in His eyes says it all!

Though many believers would rather “not think” about this face-to-face reckoning with the Lord Jesus, the Bible says that you and I will stand before Him. *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad* (2 Corinthians 5:10). Christ Himself will evaluate the true spiritual maturity and worth of our lives. This was on the heart of the Apostles as they taught the early church, that believers should live to please Christ on earth to hear His “well done” in heaven. There will only be two types of believers at the Judgment Seat—the confident and the shamed:

**Two choices at the Judgment Seat of Christ: Confidence or Shame.**  
**Choose confidence now— \_\_\_\_\_ in Him and \_\_\_\_\_ His people!**

**1 John: Life in the Family**

**Prologue—*call to fellowship*** (1:1-4)

**Preamble—*living in fellowship with God*** (1:5-2:11)

Walking in God’s Light—*stay on the path of holiness* (1:5-2:2)

Knowing the God of Light—*follow Christ and love His people* (2:3-11)

**Body—*the confidence of fellowship*** (2:12-4:17-19)

Reassurance—*spiritual assets to resist the world* (2:12-17) and the *antichrists* (2:18-27)

**Exhortation—*live in fellowship with Him now and you will be confident at His Coming*** (2:28-4:19)

John makes it perfectly clear that those who live in fellowship with Christ by abiding in Him and loving His people will be the ones who stand confidently, but those who follow the false teachers will shrink away in shame. He devotes a major portion of his letter to the *confidence* (2:28) and boldness (4:17) he desires for them at the Judgment Seat.

- I. Only those believers who abide in Christ and let His love mature in them will have confidence at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 John 2:28; 4:17).
  - A. The life that leads to confidence before Christ at His Judgment Seat is lived in intimacy with Him and His people (2:28; 4:17)!
    1. Every Christian must give an account of his or her life in Christ—from the time they believed to the time they died (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10). This is not merely a citing of our “good works” to be rewarded but a comprehensive review of both “good and bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:5-15). The goal of every believer should be to hear Christ’s “well done” as we stand before Him at His Coming.

2. There are two possible responses to His evaluation of our life lived for Him having been delivered from the presence of sin: 1) Confidence—the pure (without sin, no boasting, no ambition, only loving Him) joy of knowing that we lived for Him. 2) Shame—the pure (without sin, no defensive protests, only loving Him) regret of knowing that we did not live for Him (2:28).
  3. There are two general guidelines for living a life pleasing to Him that leads to confidence (*Inclusio*, 2:28; 4:17): 1) *Abide in Him*—live our life in intimate fellowship with Him (2:28). 2) *Mature in His love*—live our life in the power of His growing love for one another (4:17).
- B. There is no “I wish I had known” at the Judgment Seat of Christ. His Word tells us now what every Christian will wish they had known then!
1. Abide in Him—live to be near Him!
  2. Love His people—live to love His people!
- II. The portrait of a Christian who will stand confidently before Christ (Outline of 2:28-4:19).
- A. The confident believer lives righteously, loves other Christians, and releases the life of God (2:29-4:16).
1. *Inclusio—manifest*: You know that the life of God produces righteous behavior, not sin (2:29-3:10a). *Live like a Christian!*
  2. *Inclusio—love one another*: You know that the love of God produces love for Christians, not hate (3:10b-23). *Love like a Christian!*
  3. *Inclusio—God abiding in believers*: You know that the Spirit of God produces spiritual victory—confessing Christ and overcoming the world (3:24-4:16). *Live like a New Creation!*
- B. There is no “I wish I had known” at the Judgment Seat of Christ. His Word tells us how to live now so that we will have confidence then!
1. Manifest His righteousness through your life—live like a Christian!
  2. Love one another during your life—love like a Christian!
  3. Live from your new nature—live like a New Creation!

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**You will be there, and He will call your name!**

**You know now what every believer will wish they knew then! You do not have to shrink away in shame. If you knew Christ was coming next week, what would you change about your life?**

**Do it!**