

The Dual Connection Part 5 *Waiting for the Final Change*

Message to Conversation Guide

1 John 2:28- 3:3

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

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

3:1 See **what great 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.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. NIV

1. Read and discuss the verse below with a focus on the words, continue, remain, and abide:

1 John 2:28

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

1 John 2:28

28 And now, dear children, **remain in fellowship with Christ** so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. NLT

1 John 2:28

28 And now, little children, **abide in him**, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ESV

2. Discuss the two concepts of what it means to abide in or remain in Christ from the verses below as well as **Mark 6:10, Luke 10:5-7** :

Acts 16:15

15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and **stay at my house.**" And she persuaded us. NIV

Luke 1:56

56 Mary **stayed** with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home. NIV

3. How do the words of Jesus underscore the concept of remaining or abiding in Christ? What is the metaphor he uses and what is the result of remaining in Jesus?

John 15:4

4 **Remain in me**, as I also remain in you. **No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.** Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. NIV

4. The results of abiding in Jesus is not being ashamed when Jesus returns (v. 28). What does the concept of confidence of a believer at Christ' coming imply?

“Parrhesian, greek word for confidence, in Acts and Paul’s writings especially denotes the boldness given through the Spirit for witnessing. It is also a favorite word of John to describe the freedom that belongs to Christians before God in prayer (3:21; 5:14; cf. Heb. 4:16; 10:19).” Glenn W. Baker

1 John 3:21

21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, **we have confidence** before God NIV

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace **with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. NIV

5. Discuss the idea that we progressively change as we abiding in Christ but that the process is only completed when we see Jesus at his coming? What is our responsibility to prepare ourselves for the Lord’s coming?

1 John 3:2-3

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.** NIV

6. How does this verse in Philippians support the idea of final transformation at the coming of the Lord?

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this, that **he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus. NIV