

Why it's Worth It to Abide In Christ

1 John 2:28

- I. **Abiding In Christ:** We as believers must abide in Christ as His dear children (1 John 2:28a).
 - A. What it means to *abide in Christ*: To enjoy the love and security of our relationship with God and to respond to Him in ways that please Him.
 - B. What's included in *abiding in Christ* (1 John):
 1. Imitating Christ by the way we live (1 John 2:6)
 2. Loving others in our spiritual family (1 John 2:10)
 3. Immersing ourselves in God's Word (1 John 2:14, 24), depending on the Holy Spirit to teach us (1 John 2:27)
 4. Drawing close to Christ – so that we follow Him out of love, not fear (1 John 2:28; 3:1; 4:16,17).

- II. **Anticipating Christ's Return:** If we abide in Christ we will joyfully anticipate meeting Him when He comes (1John 2:28b; 4:16,17).
 - A. Christ is coming back and will evaluate our lives.
 1. Rapture – Christ will return (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
 2. Review – Christ will evaluate our life as believers in order to reward what has eternal value (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10).
 - B. Abiding in Christ determines how we view Christ's return (1 John 2:28).
 1. With Confidence & Joy, because we are focused on Christ's approval (1 John 4:17; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 9:24-27).
 2. With Shame, because we love the world and their approval (Mark 8:38/Luke 9:26; John 12:42-43; 1 John 2:15-17).

Personal Evaluation: Are we abiding in Christ? Are we living for God's approval or men's? Can Christ reward our life as we are now living it?