



# How Christ's Future Coming Changes Us

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**1 John 3:1-3**

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**INTRODUCTION** — Understanding the setting of 3:1-10

## **The Contrast** — 2 Kinds of People

v. 1 “... that **we** would be called children of God; and such **we** are” and “the **world** does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

v. 6 “**No one** who abides in Him sins; **no one** who sins has seen Him or knows Him.”

vs. 7-8 “**the one** who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **the one** who practices sin is of the devil; ...”

vs. 9-10 “**No one** who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because **he** is born of God. Buy this the **children of God** and the **children of the devil** are obvious; **anyone** who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor **the one** who does not love his brother.”

**The Point** — Sin is **INCOMPATIBLE** in the life of a true believer — **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, not sin, is what defines their lives.

**The Point** — This does not imply that sin is **IMPOSSIBLE** for a true believer, but that it is **INCONSISTENT** with a true believer.

## **The Connection** — The Coming of Christ

vs. 1-3 — The **FUTURE** coming of Christ. (Cf. 2:28-29)

v. 2 “... it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that **when He appears**, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. “

vs. 4-10 — The **FIRST** coming of Christ.

v. 5 “You know **that He appeared** in order to take away sins; ...”

v. 8 “... the Son of God **appeared for this purpose**, to destroy the works of the devil.”

**The Point** — Both His first (past) coming and future (2nd coming) — are two reasons why a true Christian does not **PRACTICE** sin.

“Unrighteous conduct is unthinkable in the Christian who has grasped the purpose of the two appearing’s of Christ. The fact of His first appearing and the hope of His second are both strong incentives to holiness” — **John Stott**

## LESSON — How Christ’s Future Coming Changes Us 3:1-3

### I. JOHN’S REFLECTION ABOUT OUR SONSHIP v. 1

The Concept — Our **ADOPTION**. v. 1a

*“See **how great** a love the Father has bestowed on us, **that we would be called children of God**; and **such we are**.”*

“See **what kind** (Gk. Potapos) of love ....” (ESV) — Something that is **FOREIGN**. (Cf. Luke 1:29; Matthew 8:27; 2 Peter 3:11)

“That **we should be called children of God**” — **ADOPTION**. (Cf. John 1:10-13; Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 3:26; Ezekiel 16:1-8).

The Contrast — Our **ASSURANCE** v. 1b

*“For this reason **the world does not know us, because it did not know Him**.”*

We know we are Christians by our **REFLECTION** of Christ. 2:28-29 (cf. 3:3,7,9)

We know we are Christians because of the **REJECTION** by the world. 3:1b

### II. JOHN’S REMINDER ABOUT THE 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING vs. 2-3

The Expectation — Live **HOPEFUL**. v. 2

*“... it has not appeared as yet **what we will be** ... when He appears, **we will be like Him**, ... “*

The Exhortation — Live **HOLY**. v. 3

*“And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him **purifies himself**, just as **He is pure**.”*

**The Conclusion** — Being a Christian means being **CONFIDENT**, but not **CONTENT**.