

## Who Are You Into?

1 John 2:28-3:1

### Preface

People are into different things. Some people are into their favorite movie star. Others are into their favorite musician.

Some people are into football. I got amused this week when I was at the hospital and several of us were in the hall talking when the conversation turned to football. One gentleman commented on an Auburn guy being a trader and going to coach at Alabama. Quickly the conversation became deep into a discussion about past coaches and players. Immediately it was apparent that the conversation was way out of my league. These people were much more into football than me or the guy who made the comment.

So who are you into? John writes to believers and encourages us to be into Christ.

### Scripture

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

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

*<sup>3</sup> 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.*

*1 John 2:28-3:1 NIV*

## Introduction

When I was in college I met this beautiful young lady named Pam Powell. A friend actually deceived us both to arrange for a meeting. When I met her for the first time, I was sure glad he did.

In the weeks and months to follow as we dated, I couldn't get enough of this good looking girl. She was fun, classy, sweet and beautiful. She worked in the evenings at a clothing store in the mall. I would find any excuse I could to go to the mall and walk by her store just to see her and hope to get an opportunity to speak to her.

I told that story one Wednesday night and someone said I was a stalker. I wasn't a stalker but you can say I was into Pam Powell; so much so that we soon became married and have been married for 27 years.

John tells us if we are to experience the Christian life the way God intended, we are to be into Christ. We are to know Him well. We must "abide in Him."

Translated in the NIV as "continue in Him", the Greek word is actually 'meno' which literally means to 'abide'. By abiding in Him, we can be confident and unashamed in our relationship with Christ.

To abide in Him, we must talk to him. We must be honest and open with our Lord.

To abide in Him, we must be a student of our Lord's teaching.

To abide in Him, we must worship Him and desire to know Him.

Those, who abide in Jesus, will produce fruit just as Jesus produced fruit and pleased the Father.

So how do we "abide or continue in Him?"

### Content

## 1. Experience His Righteousness

There is a difference between knowing something and experiencing it. To abide in Christ, we must not only understand His righteousness. We must experience His righteousness.

Why is it so important that we know his righteousness, because the more we know him, the more we will desire to imitate him. And when we imitate him, we experience His righteousness.

John says if you do right it is evidence that you have been born of Him. In other words, **when you fully comprehend His righteousness, you will be changed.**

The problem in America today is we have too many people sitting in our churches who do not really understand His righteousness. And, because we do not know His righteousness, we do not experiencing the righteousness of our Lord. Without His righteousness, we are not changed; we are no different from the rest of the world.

Illus: I remember when the schools and the community did not dare schedule anything on Sunday or Wednesday evening. They knew better. People would not attend because they would be in church. Today the church unsuccessfully tries to work around school events, little league, soccer, dance, karate and everything else. **Why is this? It is because people who claim to be believers are not abiding in Him. We are not experiencing His righteousness to the point that it changes our lives.**

When you fully understand that the perfect son of God died on the cross for your sin; when you wrap your arms around the realization that perfection hung on the cross for you, you will be changed. When it sinks in, you will fall to your knees and say; "be my Lord."

If we are to abide in Christ, we must experience the righteousness of the one who died for us.

## 2. Comprehend the Father's Love

We must open our eyes and see how much God loves us. John1 says He lavishes His love upon us.

He tolerates our sin, our blasphemy, our using his name in vein, our lack of commitment, our unfaithfulness and so much more. **As we rebel, God keeps loving us and calling us to the cross.**

I am reminded of a modern rendition of the song "When I survey the Wondrous Cross. The words are; "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Oh the wondrous cross, oh the wondrous cross. Bids me **come and die and find that I may truly live.**"

God's love for us is so amazing when we accept it we become His children. God could have saved us without making us His children. Because of His love, we become children of the King.

Illus: Once I was at a youth meeting and the youth leader kept referring to God as his Daddy. It was "my daddy this and my daddy that." I felt a bit uncomfortable with him constantly referring to God as his daddy.

But in reality, that youth leader had it right. When we comprehend the Father's love, we become His children.

There is nothing like being a child of God. **If we are to abide in Christ, we must comprehend the love of our Heavenly Father.**

## Conclusion

So, who are you into? Most people are just into themselves, their family, their hobby or their work. We live in a day when everything is ok as long as it satisfies you.

But God wants to give us so much more. Will you experience His righteousness? Will you comprehend His love?