****C3 Questions

*C3 exists to glorify God and edify the body by knowing and delighting in the Father through the joy and love of the Spirit and unity in the Son.*

Red Text = Tips and guides to help use the questions

Blue Text = Sample Answers

Green Text = Additional questions to ask

Got Milk?

Thinking about the refining and purifying work of the Holy Spirit in your life, write down some of the ways that God has cleansed you.

Read the following passages and write down the "soap" or agent that is used to purify believers. Why does God refine and cleanse us? (Hint: Isaiah 48:10-11/Rom 8:28-30)

* 1 Cor 6:11 - "washed...in the name of Jesus"
* Titus 3:5 - "washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit"
* Rev 7:4 - "washed...in the blood of the Lamb"
* Eph 5:24-26 - "washing...by the word"
* The Bible makes it clear that God refines and purifies us "for His name sake." In other words, like everything that God does, He cleanses us for His glory. Romans 8:28-30 shed light on how that works by telling us that every God does in the lives of His saints is aimed at conforming us to the image of Christ *who is the glory and radiance of God.* God refines us to look like Christ so that God's glory seen in Jesus can be displayed and enjoyed everywhere.

Where’s the Beef?

Read Psalm 73. What issue is Asaph wrestling with in this passage? Have you ever struggled with this?

* Asaph is wrestling with the reality that often the wicked look blessed and happy in this life. They appear to prosper even though they are in open rebellion against God. The apparent prosperity of the wicked is a timeless problem that almost every book of the Bible deals with. (Job 21:7–26; 24:1–17; Ps. 73:1–14; Ecc. 8:14; Jer. 12:1–4; Hab) Asaph sees those who disobey God enjoying life even though God has said that sin requires judgement.

In v1-12, how does Asaph describe the wicked? What might the prosperity of the wicked look like in our society?

* v3 - they are proud and prosperous
* v4 - they are free from pain and suffering
* v4 - they are physically strong and healthy
* v5- they suffer less than most people
* v6 - they parade in arrogance
* v6 - they are clothed in violence
* v7 - they have everything they could wish for
* v8 - their speech is evil and full of threats
* v9 - they act like the rule the world
* v11 - they question the sovereignty and knowledge of God
* v12 - they enjoy a life of comfort and ease

In v17-20, what does Asaph realize about the prosperity of the wicked? (cf Luke 20:13-21) How does this parallel Mal 3:1-5?

* Asaph realizes that in the end the wicked will be brought to nothing. They will be like a dream that is forgotten as soon as a person wakes up. God will eventually bring them to ruin and judgement. This is almost exactly what God says in Mal 3. The wicked will be refined and purified when the Messiah comes to judge the world.

In v21-28, what is Asaph's ultimate comfort? What joy do you take out of these verses?

* + Asaph is finally reminded that the wicked don't have the ultimate good. They are far from God and so in a real sense they are perishing. When Aspah remembers who God is, he is fully satisfied that in Him even if God is the only thing he has in the whole world. The Psalmist is reminded that it is better to be near God than any fleeting pleasures that the wicked enjoy in this life.

Are You Satisfied?

How does (should) the hope that Christ will return again affect the way you think and act daily?