



JESUS

LIONMAN *of* JUDAH

June 29, 2014 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 22: HE MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE

John 3:22-35

TWO COMPETING VIEWS AT PLAY AGAIN IN 3:22-25

1. **RELIGION:** *"I obey, therefore I'm accepted."*
2. **GOSPEL:** *"I'm accepted, therefore I obey."*

JOHN THE BAPTIZER UNDERSTOOD THREE THINGS:

1. He understood **WHO JESUS IS.**

2. He understood **WHO HE WAS.**

He understood his identity.

Humility = “knowing your place”.

“He must increase... I must decrease.”

3. He understood **HIS ROLE** in light of those things.

John understood that his identity determined his activity.

*He knew his place. He didn't buy into the lie that his activity (or lack thereof) determined his identity. His identity was rooted **firmly** in Jesus Christ, and it was from this identity that he lived his life.*

1:10 COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK



Open Your Group in Prayer. Use the Prayer Guide on the next page for Suggestions.

Read John 3:22-36.

Pastor Josh often mentions the centrality of our identity in Christ to the issues we face and the way we live our lives as followers of Jesus. This week we see a clear example in John the Baptizer of a man who's identity was rooted firmly in Christ. John understood 1) who Jesus was, 2) who he was, and 3) what his role was in light of those two things. Our study this week will follow that template.

WHO IS JESUS?

1. Make a list of everything you see in this passage that speaks of who Jesus is. Also include what you see mentioned of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
2. What do each of the following passages tell us about who Jesus is?
 - John 1:1; 1:14 • Titus 2:13 • Hebrews 1:18 • Philippians 2:9-11
 - John 8:58 (compare with Exodus 3:14) • Revelation 22:13 • Mark 2:5-7
 - Matthew 28:18-20 (compare v. 18 with John 3:35) • Colossians 1:15-20

WHO ARE YOU?

3. Make a list of everything you see in this passage describing who John the Baptizer is (and/or who you are). Include any statements that speak to who John is *not*.
4. **Read Psalm 139:13-18 and 23-24.** Write down everything this tells you about God's thoughts toward you.
5. **Read Colossians 1:9-14;** Write down everything this tells you about who you are in Christ.
6. **Read Ephesians 1:3-14.** Write down everything this tells you about who you are in Christ.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

7. Why is it important to understand who Jesus is as it relates to how we live our lives?
8. **Read Colossians 1:21-23.** How does your identity in Christ influence the way you should live?
9. **Read John's words in 3:27-30.** How does John's identity influence his activity? His thoughts? His feelings? His joy?
10. The truth of God's word is that our identity influences our activity. I.E., who we are in Christ is what enables us to live in a God-honoring way. Why is it important to know this? Why is it that we so often default into living our lives the other direction (where we try to have our activity influence our identity, and earn God's favor)?
11. Is it helpful to think of John's statement in 3:30 as an identity statement? In other words, "I must learn to increasingly find my identity in Christ, and I must decreasingly find my identity in my own efforts."
12. Humility is rightly defined as "knowing your place." John clearly "knew his place" when he made the statement, "He must increase, but I must decrease" in 3:30. We all have areas of our life where Jesus must increase, and we must decrease. What areas have you seen growth in this? Where do you need to grow?
13. **Read 3:33.** If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ, how have you seen Jesus prove himself to be true in your life?

6:7 family questions

Read John 3:22-36

- What were Jesus and John both doing as part of their ministry? (vs. 22,23)

Read vs. 26 again.

- Why do you think John's disciples gave him this report? Do you think they were jealous?

John's response to this report in verse 30 was, "He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less" (NLT).

- What did John mean by that?

Discuss what it would mean in your own life for you to become less and for Jesus to become greater.

These simple questions are designed to help you live out the command in Deuteronomy 6:7 to teach our kids and make God's Word a natural topic of conversation in our homes. Use them at the dinner table, in the car, or whenever you find your family together with a few moments to spare.

PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF JUNE 29, 2014

During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.

Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.

NOTE: *Due to the sensitive nature of some items on the Prayer Guide, we do not publish it online. Email the church office to sign up for the email prayer list: office@wawaseebible.com*