

He Must Increase, But I Must Decrease

From Selfishness to Servanthood

John 3:22-30

We are all prone to be a little self-centered from time to time. Unfortunately, we as a society do not have to teach children how to be selfish, but we do have to teach them how to be servants. We are all engrained with our preferences, our wants, and our desires that often override a sacrifice for the service of others. Even when we are serving God, we can lose focus of serving an audience of one, Jesus Christ. Our flesh has the tendency to make much of ourselves when life is really all about making much of Jesus Christ through serving others.

What does it look like to decrease in selfishness and to increase in glorifying Jesus Christ? I believe John the Baptist gives us a good pattern to continue to put Christ first as the main priority, and to serve others. We see that clearly here in John 3:22-30. Paul specifically records in Philippians 2:3-4 *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

Acknowledge That Only Jesus Christ is the Great Provider (John 3:22-27) John has an encounter with one of his disciples concerning people going to Jesus instead of coming to John. This really should outline a pattern or model for us to do life by. When we begin to become prideful and start to believe that we are God’s gift to society, we must acknowledge that if anything great happens, it happens because Christ Jesus has enabled it to happen. He alone is the great provider. Listen to Philippians 4:19 *“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* I want to exalt Jesus Christ in every aspect of my life. May He alone be gloried!

Adhere to Pursuing a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ (John 3:28-29) John continues to share an illustration about being near the bridegroom and hearing His voice. The opposite of Jesus Christ is selfishness. As we grow in His likeness, we will become less about us and more about Him. To have joy and peace of knowing Jesus as your Savior and growing in that joy and peace must be our pursuit! We can say what John recorded here, *“therefore this joy of mine is now complete.”* How do you grow in a relationship with someone? You communicate with them! Sit time aside to talk with Jesus. It’s like breathing, the Word of God must be our act of inhaling and prayer must be our act exhaling.

Affirm Your Purpose in Serving Jesus Christ (John 3:30) John is saying, life is not about me! Life now and eternally is about Jesus Christ! What is your purpose? Listen to Psalm 57:2-3 *“I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. He will send*

from heaven and save me; He will put to shame him who tramples on me. God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!” Our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever! I must decrease, and He must increase.

Paul shared with the Philippians his transformed state of making Christ first and himself last. Listen to Philippians 3:8 *“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”* Hopefully you can take great joy in this statement, I have gained Christ, I am growing in Christ, and I am going for Christ!

Moving from selfishness to servanthood.

1. Moving away from being critical to becoming more constructively encouraging.
2. Moving away from complaining to becoming more prayerful.
3. Moving away from division to becoming unified.
4. Moving away from taking credit to giving credit.
5. Moving away from self-centered success to helping others succeed.
6. Moving away from a desire to “be in the game,” to a determination to become a coach.
7. Moving away from a desire to be fed, to becoming devoted to feeding others.