



John 3:22-36 :: One Pursuit - J.R. Kerr

John the Baptist Exalts Christ

²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Early in life I had to choose between honest arrogance and hypocritical humility. I chose the former and have seen no reason to change.

Frank Lloyd Wright

The context...

Vs. 25-29a...Conversation btw John and his Disciples'...

Vs. 29b-30...He must Increase...I must Decrease...

The Humility of John the Baptist...

- This is why John, the writer of this Gospel, records these words here. Nicodemus was baffled by the Christ-exalting sovereignty of God in the new birth. John saw it and loved it: "Nobody leaves me and goes to Jesus unless it is given him from heaven (verse 27). And there they go—away from me to Jesus—so this is the work of heaven. This is the glorification of

the Son, the Shepherd, the Bridegroom, the sovereign voice. He increases, and I decrease. And this is the fullness of my joy.” **Piper**

- Humility is attentive patience...**Simone Weil**

“That is what is happening in **John 3:31–36**. Jesus is held up before us as coming from God, and full of God, and speaking and ruling as God, so that eternity divides between those who seal God as true in Jesus and those who seal God as a liar. The one has eternal life, and the other remains under the wrath of God.” **Piper**

Vs. 31-36...The Reason for His Increase...

- He is Eternal...He comes from above...He sees it all...
 - o 2 Categories of People...Adam & Jesus
 - o Listen to this amazing explanation from Paul of what Jesus is saying here...
1 Corinthians 15:47–49:
“The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”
- He is True...Speaks the Words of God...He Knows It All
 - o Truth in John
 - John 1:17
 - John 8:32
 - John 14:6
 - John 18:38
 - o A Shift from Truth in our Society to Experience...
 - Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods.
Albert Einstein
 - One of the most fascinating examples that exemplifies the relationship between identity and consumption is based on the work of Japanese psychoanalyst Ken Oh-hira.
 - Oh-hira reports that some of his patients lacked self-expression, and could not eloquently describe their relationships with others. When asked, however, about their possessions, leisure activities, and food preferences, many could retell their life as a consumer. In fact, many used their

“brands” to characterize their lifestyles, personal relationships, and self-identity. Human relationships were recognized primarily by commodities, and one’s identity was indelibly linked to the capacity to collect and organize commodities...**Truth: The First Casualty of Postmodern Consumerism...**Michael Jessup...Taylor University

- He is Loved...The Father Loves Him & through Jesus the Father Loves Us... He Redeems it All...
 - o “I am a favorite son” story...
 - o Nothing in the world, will sweeten the remembrance of Christ's love to us, so much as the believing remembrance of the Father's love to him; even as nothing can provoke us more to put honour upon Christ, than to see how much honour the Father puts upon him; and for this end, "That all men might honour the Son, even as they honour the Father." Why, what honour has the Father put upon him? It is even the greatest honour; and that wherein our greatest happiness lies He hath given all things into his hand." A puritan sermon delivered before the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Dunfermline, June 27, 1731

- To Believe is to Set Our Seal To...What do we leave committed to????

The wearing of signet rings (from Latin "signum" meaning sign) goes back to ancient Egypt; the distinctive personal signature was not developed in antiquity and most documents needed a seal. The tradition continues, especially among the [armigerous](#), in European and some other cultures.

Do you wish to be great? Then begin by being. Do you desire to construct a vast and lofty fabric? Think first about the foundations of humility. The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation. Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility.

Saint Augustine