

To Grow Up, You Must Grow Down!



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John 3:22-30

"They that know God will be humble, and they that know themselves cannot be proud!" That's what British Puritan John Flavel once said. And that's how John the Baptist once lived!

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John 3:22-30

John the Baptist and his followers provide a great applicational folder for how Christians should get along and humble themselves before one another and God. For any Christian believer who wants to spiritually grow up and grow strong, he must first grow down.”

An Honest Struggle and a humble
servant

John's Disciples and Jesus' Disciples

(vv. 22-24)

Jesus gaining popularity and controversy

John and his disciples have a struggle with this

Jesus disciples baptizing

John and his disciples baptizing

An Honest Struggle: *God's Kids Can Sometimes Disagree*

John's Disciples and the Jews

(vv. 25-26)

Discussion between them regarding purification

John's disciples go to John and say,

"Jesus has a bigger group than us!"

Illustrations of God's People Can Sometimes Disagree

If two people agree on everything, one isn't
thinking - Walter Martin

Church is not a society of perfect people
Church is a group of redeemed people who
express spirituality through imperfect
personality

Illustrations of God's People Can Sometimes Disagree

Bob Cook

“God reserves the right to use people who
disagree with you”

Church is like a family, we don't always get
along

Biblical examples

Old Testament Examples

Abraham and Lot, Jacob and Laban, Joseph and his brothers,

New Testament Examples

the 12 apostles, Peter and Paul, the council at Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas

Disagreement can be carnal

(Corinthian church)

Disagreement can be corrective

John the Baptist has four things in proper order

1. The Proper Theology--*God is Sovereign* (v. 27)

When someone is superior or successful,

God gave that to them

“God and others are responsible for the
successes in our lives”

If you are being blessed, you can't brag

(1 Corinthians 4:7)

Nothing escapes His notice

2. The Proper Understanding--*I Know* *My Calling* (v. 28)

Be content in what your gifts are

Be content in your limitations

Variety of Spiritual Gifts,

(Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4)

Different gifts, different administrations of
those gifts

3. The Proper Attitude--Joyful *Participation* (v. 29)

Be happy to be a part of the process

Rejoice in another's accomplishments

4. The Proper Relationship--*More of Him; Less of Me!* (v. 30)

“He must increase, I must decrease”

The Cure to self-focused living

Divine necessity

Recognize your role

Dying to self

It's all about Jesus, it's really not about any of
us

Let's Review

1. We realize there's a sovereign God who gives everybody whatever He thinks they should have. I can handle that
2. To recognize the limitations of my own gifts and be content to function there in.

Let's Review

3. To be joyful that you're just part of the process, that God uses any of us at all.
4. To be able to say, it's not about me. It's all about Him, More of Him and less of me.