

The Loyal Witness: John 3:22-36

1. Loyal to His calling.

22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing.

23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and *people* were coming and were being baptized—

*24 for John had not yet been thrown into prison.

Calling: **John 1:6-8; 1:19-23**; Persecution: **Matthew 5:10; Isaiah 66:1-5**

25 Therefore there arose a debate between John's disciples and a Jew about purification.

26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have borne witness, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him."

Debate between external and internal: **Matthew 12:1-2; Mark 7:1-7, 14-15;**

*27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

Heaven is the source: **John 3:5-7**

2. Loyal to His Church.

28 "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' The Head: **Ephesians 4:15.**

29 "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.

*30 "He must increase, but I must decrease. **Dying to self: Galatians 2:20**

3. Loyal to His claims

31 "He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

32 "What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no one receives His witness.

John 3:13; John 1:18; John 7:16; John 8:26; John 12:49

33 "He who has received His witness has set his seal to *this*, that God is true.

34 "For He whom God has sent speaks 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.

Hebrews 1:1-2

4. Loyal to His Command

*36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 3:16-21