

THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS CHRIST

John 3:22-30

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INTRODUCTION: GOD'S EXCLUSIVITY

There has always been a certain sense of exclusivity in how God works.

John 3 can be divided into two parts between verses 21 and 22.

Supreme

1: highest in rank or authority

2: highest in degree or quality

Proposition: God orders everything under Jesus Christ so that followers of Jesus serve God under Jesus' supremacy.

I. GOD'S SERVANT SHOULD DO NOTHING FROM SELFISH AMBITION, VV. 22-26

A. THE SETTING

B. THE CONFLICT

1. The Argument

2. The Complaint

Point: The servant of God who is not focused on Christ eventually gives in to selfish ambition.

II. GOD'S SERVANT SHOULD BE KNOWN FOR HIS SERVANT HEART, VV. 27-29

A. THE SERVANT HEART SAYS, "I ONLY HAVE WHAT GOD GIVES ME."

? How often do you find yourselves fighting for your rights, your own way, for your own benefit?

1 Chronicles 29:11, 12

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

Paul echoes these sentiments to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

1 Corinthians 6:7, 8

Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. *You do* this even to *your* brethren.

Consider this principle of waiting from Psalm 37.

Psalm 37:3-7a

Trust in the LORD and do good;
Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light
And your judgment as the noonday.
Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;

B. THE SERVANT HEART SAYS, "I ONLY AM WHO GOD MADE ME TO BE."

1. He Stands
2. He Listens
3. He Rejoices

CONCLUSION: HE MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE, V. 30

? Is your service to Jesus Christ selfish or are you happy to be doing what God has given you to do?

? How was this conflict resolved?

John 4:1-3

Philippians 1:15-18

Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.

As you serve the Lord, ask yourself a few key questions:

1. What is God doing here?
2. What are His goals?
3. How can I bring Him glory?
4. Who has God made me to be?
5. What has God given me to do?

The bigger point that John is trying to teach us through this illustration of Christian service is the Supremacy of Christ.

Next week, the doctrine of the supremacy of Jesus Christ.