

JESUS MUST INCREASE

I. WE ARE WHO WE ARE BECAUSE OF GOD – John 3:27

Being a Christian and being able to serve Christ is all because of God and His grace. We are but servants, and God enables us to serve Him. John knew he was a servant of God, and that His success was from God. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, 4:7, 15:10

II. JOHN WAS NOT THE CHRIST, BUT WAS SENT AHEAD OF CHRIST – John 3:28

John wanted people to understand who he was. His mission was to prepare the way of the Lord, which is why he was preaching a baptism of repentance. John 1:29, Luke 3:2-4

III. JESUS IS THE BRIDEGROOM AND JOHN IS THE “BEST MAN,” THE FRIEND OF THE BRIDEGROOM - John 3:29

John wanted to make sure people knew who Jesus was, that He was the Bridegroom, the Christ, the Lord, and the Savior of the world. John was but a friend, one playing a supporting role, one encouraging people to come to Christ.

IV. JOHN KNEW JESUS NEEDED TO INCREASE AND THAT HE NEEDED TO DECREASE – John 3:30

John had big crowds, but he knew his ministry was winding down, that his role, his purpose, was coming to an end. He was not proud, but humble, knowing who Jesus was, and who he was in relationship to Him. John was but a man, a servant of God, and Jesus was God, the One people needed to go to, believe & learn from. Matthew 3:5, Luke 3:10

V. JOHN TALKS ABOUT JESUS’ POSITION AND PURPOSE - John 3:31-33

A. Jesus is a heavenly being, one who is above all, and has authority over everything in the world. He’s greater, stronger, wiser, more holy and more loving than anyone on earth.

B. Jesus testifies. He is from heaven, and has been sent from heaven to earth to speak the truth, the words He has heard from His Father.

C. The Jews and the world, in general, did not receive Jesus. They did not want Jesus to be Lord, and didn’t think Jesus needed to save them. John 1:9-11, 3:11, 5:43, 12:37

D. Some, the minority of the people, did believe Jesus’ testimony. They set their seal to this, for they were verifying the truthfulness, the authenticity of Jesus. They believed Jesus was God, that He was true, and that what He said was true.

VI. GOD SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD - John 3:34

A. God sent His Son into the world to speak the words of God, for the people in the world needed to hear the words of God.

B. God the Father gives the Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ so He can speak the words of God. Everything Jesus said was the words of God, those things written and not written. God gives us the Spirit so we can know the word of God. John 14:16-18, John 21:25

VII. "THE FATHER LOVES THE SON" – John 3:35

A. The love the Father has for the Son is an immense, infinite, and glorious love, the greatest love you could ever imagine. The Father and the Son are always close to one another, committed to one another, and continually communicating with one another.

B. The love the Father has for the Son is the love that He has for us. We cannot really comprehend this, but it is the truth. John 15:10

C. God gives Jesus the Spirit, but more than that, He gives Him all things. As believers, we are co-heirs of Christ, and so all that Jesus has is ours. John 17:6-8; Romans 8:16-17; Daniel 7:18, 27; Revelation 5:10

VIII. BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS - John 3:36

A. Believing in Jesus means you have a strong confidence in Him. It means that you put your faith in Him, are completely relying on Him, and are totally depending on Him.

B. A person believes in Jesus or he doesn't. There is no middle ground. The person who believes is depending completely on Jesus to save him from his sins. The person who believes has eternal life, is forgiven and is a child of God. John 1:12-13, Eph. 2:8-9

C. To not believe means you are disobeying God, for God commands you to believe in Him, to obey Him. To not believe in Jesus is a terrible thing, the worst thing a person can do, for the person who doesn't believe in Jesus won't be saved, but will suffer God's wrath forever and ever in hell. Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 14:9-11

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO HEARS MY WORD,
AND BELIEVES HIM WHO SENT ME, HAS ETERNAL LIFE,
AND DOES NOT COME INTO JUDGMENT,
BUT HAS PASSED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE.**

John 5:24