

ACCEPTING ONE'S ROLE

John 3:22-30

July 4, 2021

Introduction

God gave John the Baptist a special role that included serving as the forerunner of Christ (John 1:23) and bearing witness of Him to others (John 1:29-34). John fulfilled his role exceptionally well.

Like John, God has given every believer a special role (e.g., husband/wife, father/mother, student, employee, position of humble service). Believers are to accept their role and point people to Christ.

John 3:22-30 (ESV)

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."

Summary Statements

1. "I accept the role God has given me." (John 3:27-29)

John recognized that God gave him a special role and he accepted it. As a believer, there will be times when God gives you a special role which may be difficult or humble. Regardless of the role He gives, accept it and seek to point others to Jesus.

Questions

- In what role has God called you to serve Him?
- Have you accepted your role?
- In your role, are you seeking to point people to Jesus?

2. "I find joy in the role God has given me." (John 3:29)

John found joy in the role God gave him. Whatever role God places you in, seek to find joy in it. Take pleasure in knowing that you are in the center of God's will and that He will use you to make Christ known to others. Find joy in serving as His instrument to accomplish His kingdom purposes. Your role may not be the most desirable, but you can still find joy in it.

Questions

- Do you sometimes struggle to find joy in your role? Why?
- Are there Christians whom you need to help find joy in their role?
- What are several practical ways you can encourage them to find joy?

ACCEPTING ONE'S ROLE

Questions

- Do you sometimes struggle to find joy in your role? Why?
- Are there Christians whom you need to help find joy in their role?
- What are several practical ways you can encourage them to find joy?

3. “I must become less important than Jesus.” (John 3:30)

John the Baptist was a man of humility. He sought to play his part and point people to Christ. Similarly, we should strive to model humility in the role God places us. This does not mean that we withdraw from others, isolate ourselves, or decline all public duties offered to us. Rather, it means that we view ourselves as supporting actors/actresses in God’s divine drama of salvation history who play a particular role for a season. We play our part for a limited time to point people to the star of the drama, Christ.

Questions

- Why is it sometimes difficult for believers to seek to “decrease” or take a less prominent role (John 3:30)?
- What steps can you take to model humility in your role and point people to Christ?
- How did Jesus model humility in His role?

Conclusion

Additional Passages Related to John the Baptist

Matthew 3 (compare Matt 3:2 with Matt 4:17, John and Jesus preached the same message)

Matthew 11:1-19 (v. 3, John was not perfect in his role; he was human and questioned Jesus’ identity at one point; v. 11, John is the greatest person of the age prior to the arrival of the kingdom while even the “least” person in the new age is “greater” than John due to the fact they see and experience God’s kingdom in a more visible and spectacular manner, that is, the arrival of Messiah)

Matthew 14:1-13a (v. 4, John was a courageous champion of God’s Law and righteousness; vv. 10-11, John suffered in his role)

Mark 1:1-11 (v. 4, true men and women of God call people to repentance)

Luke 1:5-25 (vv. 7, 13 and 18, John’s existence was the result of God taking the initiative and causing a barren, elderly couple to conceive; vv. 16-17, God envisioned a special role for John)

Luke 1:57-80 (vv. 67ff, God is rightly praised for giving John his role)

Luke 3:1-22 (vv. 7-14, John confronted people of their sin, called for visible repentance, warned of God’s judgment and gave practical guidance for living a godly life)

John 1:19-34 (vv. 23-27, John understood his role to include preparing people for Jesus’ arrival; vv. 29 and 34, John testified of Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross on behalf of sinners and identity as God’s Son)

You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website:

<http://www.crowfieldbaptist.org/salvation/>