



# Calvary of Albuquerque

To Grow Up, You Must Grow Down! - John 3:22-30

From the Series, Believe:879

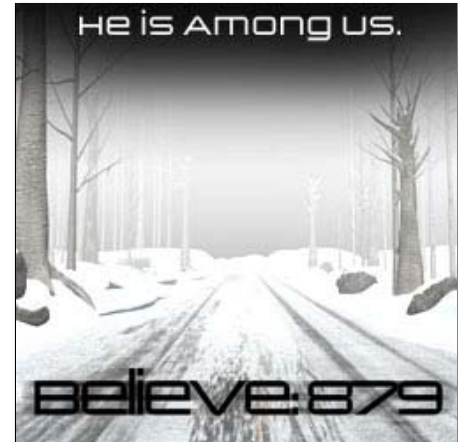
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

"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! John the Baptist and his followers provide some great applicational fodder 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.

## OUTLINE

- I. An Honest Struggle: God's Kids Can Sometimes Disagree
  - A. John's Disciples and Jesus' Disciples (vv. 22-24)
  - B. John's Disciples and the Jews (vv. 25-26)
- II. A Humble Servant: God's Reps Should Always Defer
  - A. The Proper Theology-*God is Sovereign* (v. 27)
  - B. The Proper Understanding-*I Know My Calling* (v. 28)
  - C. The Proper Attitude-*Joyful Participation* (v. 29)
  - D. The Proper Relationship-*More of Him; Less of Me!* (v. 30)



For Home Fellowships:

1. What was the last religious/spiritual argument you were involved in? What was it about? How did it end? On what basis do you decide to argue?
2. How do you feel if someone else is greater and you are lesser? How has God helped you deal with those feelings?
3. How did John's attitude toward Jesus help Jesus to become greater?

## DETAILED NOTES

- I. An Honest Struggle: *God's Kids Can Sometimes Disagree*
  - A. John's Disciples and Jesus' Disciples (vv. 22-24)
    1. Jesus gaining popularity and controversy
    2. John and his disciples have a struggle with this
    3. Jesus disciples baptizing
    4. John and his disciples baptizing
  - B. John's Disciples and the Jews (vv. 25-26)
    1. Discussion between them regarding purification
    2. John's disciples go to John and say, "Jesus has a bigger group than us!"
  - C. Illustrations of God's People Can Sometimes Disagree
    1. If two people agree on everything, one isn't thinking - Walter Martin
    2. Church is not a society of perfect people
    3. Church is a group of redeemed people who express spirituality through imperfect personality
    4. God reserves the right to use people who disagree with you - Bob Cook
    5. Church is like a family, we don't always get along
    6. Biblical examples: Abraham and Lot, Jacob and Laban, Joseph and his brothers, the 12 apostles, Peter and Paul, the council at Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas
    7. Disagreement can be carnal (Corinthian church)
    8. Disagreement can be corrective
- II. A Humble Servant: *God's Reps Should Always Defer*
  - A. The Proper Theology--*God is Sovereign* (v. 27)
    1. When someone is superior or successful, God gave that to them

2. Best way to view someone else's success
3. If you are being blessed, you can't brag (1 Corinthians 4:7)
4. Nothing escapes His notice
5. You don't have to worry about everyone else
- B. The Proper Understanding--*I Know My Calling* (v. 28)
  1. I'm not Christ, I'm the forerunner
  2. Be content in what your gifts are
  3. Be content in your limitations
  4. Variety of Spiritual Gifts, (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4) Different gifts, different administrations of those gifts
- C. The Proper Attitude--*Joyful Participation* (v. 29)
  1. Rejoice in another's accomplishments
  2. Be happy to be a part of the process
- D. The Proper Relationship--*More of Him; Less of Me!* (v. 30)
  1. Cure to self-focused living
  2. Divine necessity
  3. Recognize your role
  4. Dying to self

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3. How did John's attitude toward Jesus help Jesus to become greater?

Figures Referenced: Walter Martin, Bob Cook, Billy Graham, William Carey

Publications Referenced: The Message, by Eugene Peterson

Cross References: Genesis 13, Genesis 31, John 4, Acts 15, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 4:7, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, Philippians 1