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## ***The Sin of Comparison***

John 3:22-30  
March 19, 2017

### **I. The Ministry of John and Jesus Overlapped (vv. 22-24)**

A. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ His ministry (Jn. 4:1-3)

B. John is \_\_\_\_\_ his ministry (Mk. 1:2-8)

### **II. The Jealousy of John's Disciples (vv. 25-26)**

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ about whose ministry is better  
(Num. 11:26-30; Lk. 9:49-50; Phil. 1:15-18)

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of comparison and competition  
(Ex. 20:17; Lk. 12:15)

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of an identity crisis  
(Gen. 1:27; Eph. 2:10)

### **III. The Humility of John the Baptist (vv. 27-28)**

A. God is \_\_\_\_\_ in bestowing His blessings (Jn. 6:65; 19:11)

B. God is \_\_\_\_\_ to give the increase as He sees fit  
(1 Cor. 3:3-7; 4:6-7)

### **IV. The Illustration of John the Baptist (v. 29)**

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:1-3; Eph. 5:22-33)

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ is coming to claim His bride (Rev. 19:6-9; 21:9-11)

### **V. The Thrust of John the Baptist (v. 30)**

A. The "must" of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 3:7)

B. The "must" of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 3:14)

C. The "must" of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 3:30)

### **TAKE HOME**

- Where do you \_\_\_\_\_ your value, your worth, and your dignity?
- If you \_\_\_\_\_ with the sin of comparison, what's the way out?
- Do you believe the \_\_\_\_\_ that the more you live for your life and your joy the more your joy will evade you?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read John 3:22-24. What was the difference between Jesus’ baptism and the baptism of John? What did John the Baptist do once Jesus began His ministry? How can this challenge you in your life?

2. Read John 5:25-26. What was it that John the Baptist’s disciples were struggling with? How do Num. 11:26-30; Lk. 9:49-50; Phil. 1:15-18 show a similar theme? Have you ever had these struggles of comparison? Please explain.

3. Discuss how comparison can lead to competition which can lead to insecurity in your life. How can re-orienting your identity in Christ help you fight this tendency? (Gen. 1:27; Eph. 2:10)

4. Read John 3:27-28. What was John’s response to His disciples? How can we learn from that and apply this answer in our lives? (Jn. 6:65; 19:11)

5. Read 1 Cor. 3:3-7; 4:6-7. How do these passages fit in with our text?

6. Read John 3:29. Who is the bridegroom? Who is the bride? Who is the best man? Are you doing your duty as Jesus’ best man? Why or why not?

7. Read John 3:30. What are the three “musts” in John 3? How can you practically decrease as Christ increases in your life this week?

8. Read the take home questions. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? Why? How will you grow and change in response to this sermon?

*“John finds his joy, not in grudgingly conceding victory to a superior opponent, but in wholeheartedly embracing God’s will, and the supremacy it assigns to Jesus.”*

- D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*