

Esteem
State of Mind – Part 3
November 13 & 14, 2021
Pastor Cody Kiwacyzk

John 3:22-36

Series Memory Verse: *“And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.”* Mark 12:30 (p.773)

“He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.”
John 3:30 (p.811)

- **Jesus Must Become Greater And Greater, And I Must Become Less And Less.**

“Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.”
Romans 12:3b (p.866)

1. Don't compare.

“So John’s disciples came to him and said, ‘Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.’”
John 3:26 (p.811)

“Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else.”
Galatians 6:4 (p.894)

2. Die to self.

“John replied, ‘No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. You yourselves know how plainly I told you, I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’”
John 3:27-28 (p.811)

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
Galatians 2:20 (p.891)

3. Seek Christ alone.

“He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of

earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else.”
John 3:30-31 (p.811)

“And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.”
Colossians 1:27b (p.903)

My Next Step This Week:

_____ I will make John 3:30 my daily prayer this week: *“Jesus become greater and greater and help me to become less and less, because I want my esteem to be in You and You alone.”*

“And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”
John 3:36 (p.811)



Discussion/Groups Guide Weekend Talk of November 13-14, 2021 **State of Mind - Part 3**

ONE VOICE

Esteem

Life Groups use this guide in their discussion and study of the Weekend Talk. Use this also as a discussion guide with your family and friends.

Find out more about Groups (in person and online) at alivechurch.com/groups.

Conversation Starters

- Do you remember the old Saturday Night Live bits featuring Al Franken as Gordon Smalley looking in the mirror at himself and saying: *“I’m good enough. I’m smart enough, and doggone it, people like me.”*
 - How common is it that people try to find their esteem in happy self-talk like this?
 - In what other ways do people seek to assess their value or esteem?
- Does your opinion of yourself ever waver; in other words, does it fluctuate from day to day, or situation to situation? Why is that?
- Why is it important to have a standard when you measure something? (Such as a ruler, tape, scale, etc.)

Quick Review

Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out to you, challenged you, or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and Bible verses from the Talk Notes.

This week's One Thing: The key principle that Pastor Cody Kiwaczyk emphasized is:

**Jesus Must Become Greater And Greater,
And I Must Become Less And Less.**

- Series Memory Verse: Mark 12:30 (p.773)
- Background: John 3:22-36 (p.811); See also Romans 12:1-3 (p.866)
 - What does it mean to you that you must become "less and less" while Jesus becomes greater and greater?" Can we really make Jesus greater?
 - Talk about the counter-cultural nature of our "one thing" this week. What are practical ways in which we can "become less" while Jesus "becomes greater."
 - What is it about Romans 12:1-3a that sets up the second part of verse 3 ("*Don't think you are...*")?

Cody encouraged us to focus on 3 essentials to a proper perspective on esteem:

- 1. Don't compare.** (John 3:26 (p.811); Galatians 6:1-4 (p.894))
 - Why were John's disciples upset?
 - How do we fall into the trap of comparison? Have you ever been in this trap? What did you learn?
 - In Galatians 6 what does Paul tell us to do before he gets to his "compare" statement in verse 4?
- 2. Die to self.** ((John 3:27-28 (p.811); Galatians 2:20 (p.891); Philippians 1:21 (p.899))
 - Talk about the counter-intuitive and counter-cultural nature of this point. What does our culture typically advise and promote instead?
 - What does it mean to die to self?
- 3. Seek Christ alone.** ((John 3:30-31 (p.811); Colossians 1:24-28 (p.903))
 - What are some other sources we look to for esteem?
 - Talk about a time when you realized that you were getting nowhere on your own and you had to surrender (whatever) to Jesus?
 - In the Colossians 1 passage, identify activities and responsibilities Paul identifies, as well as what it means for us, as well.

Digging Deeper (usually to study on your own)

- Read Luke 14:7-11 (p.797)
 - What is happening on the surface of this parable? It's about where to sit at a wedding, right?

- On the face of it to us it seems obvious that you do not go to the head table. But how often are we put out because we believe we should be at the *head table* and someone else is there instead?
- Let's translate to the workplace - someone else has been rewarded for a piece of work and you don't get any credit. Given what we heard Cody teach us, what should our reaction be now?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (p844)
 - Ambassadors are treated with high respect and courtesy, but looking at Philippians 1:27-30, how should we behave towards others and be expected to be treated by non-believers?
 - What privilege has been granted to us by God? (v. 29)

Next Step

My Next Step This Week: _____ I will make John 3:30 my daily prayer this week:
"Jesus, become greater and greater and help me to become less and less because I want my esteem to be in You and You alone."

Use the link on the app or go to your Connection Card at www.alivechurch.com/card to indicate you are taking this Next Step so that we can pray for you.