

JUSTIFIED BY SELF (Hebrews 4:12-13)

Luke 18:11-12 Whenever we try to prove to others that we are something that we are not we often think that we fool them and show ourselves bigger, stronger and wiser than we really are. The sad thing is that we are only fooling ourselves because most people, and God especially, sees right through us.

UNDERSTANDING HUMILITY

John 3:30 If anyone ever could fall into the trap of pride it would be John the Baptist. (**Luke 1:15**) filled with the Holy Spirit while in the womb of his mother, (**Luke 1:17, 74**) the prophet called 'the forerunner' of the Messiah, (**Matthew 3:5-6**) enjoying popularity and success with people, (**Matthew 11:11**) called the greatest man in human history by Jesus Christ Himself. Yet John puts all that success and accolades aside and gives his disciples and us a basic, scriptural lesson on humility.

UNDERSTANDING WHO GOD IS

John 3:27 John understood that his role was to be the forerunner of Messiah. This ministry was given to him by God and John knew that he was to stay within the role given to him. The same is true of each one of us. We must do what God gave us to do as best as we can and not try to do above our calling.

James 1:17 John realized, as we must realize, God is not interested in our talents but He gives us what He desires for us to do. When we find what He wants from us He must be recognized and honored not us. Too many believers are interested in "showing off their talents" and not honoring God.

John 3:28-29 Another wonderful example, John was more than happy to take a back seat and get out of the way of the One who must take center stage. The bride belongs to the Bridegroom and the focus must be on Him.

UNDERSTANDING WHO WE ARE

John 3:28 John knew himself that he was sent to serve the One coming after him. Just as Moses, Joshua, Daniel, Paul, D.L. Moody, and Missionaries all over the world know they are servants.

Romans 8:28 When your ministry and service is going well, give God glory. When things are not going well for us let's remember that God is God and we serve Him not the other way around.

John 3:27; I Corinthians 12:4-7 John recognized that his success was given to him by God and that he had not achieved greatness on his own. Each believer is given a gift, a ministry to have a service for God and toward others. It is a gift to complete the body of Christ. God gifted us we are not to be proud.

I Corinthians 4:7 The Apostle Paul realized the same thing John realized, we have received all good things from the Lord. All our gifts, abilities, health, opportunities come from the grace of God. Do you have health, a special talent, money, business experience, a gift of gab? God gave it to you for Himself.

John 3:26; Luke 9:49-50 John realized he was not building a following for himself but for Christ. We are not in competition with each other or with churches that are doctrinally sound. We are all in service to King Jesus and our number one goal is to win as many lost souls as possible and serve God.

UNDERSTANDING WE ARE TEMPORARY

John 3:30; II Timothy 4:6-7 Just like Abraham, Moses, King David, Peter and Paul the Apostles, John knew that he was only on the scene temporarily. He and others like him gave their lives to promote God's program. These martyrs gave us the example of humility and loyalty to Jesus Christ.