

WHO IS INCREASING?

When asked about the increasing popularity of Jesus' ministry and the large number of disciples now following Him, John the baptizer proclaimed, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn. 3:30).

What a wonderful statement about spiritual maturity! As we grow in our relationship to Jesus the world must see less of us and more of Christ. Envy or jealousy played no part in John's life and ministry. He was doing what God wanted him to do--prepare the way for the Christ and then get out of the way! John was very content in being the best man, and he knew that Jesus was the honored bridegroom (Jn. 3:29).

When we submit in loving obedience to the will of God in becoming Christians we begin our spiritual journey that should allow the world to see Christ living in us. Paul said it this way in Gal. 2:20; "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me" (NASB).

As you go about your duties today, think about how the world will view you and what you do. Will they see Christ? Will they see a changed life from those of the world? Or will they just see you? People may argue with what you believe and the doctrine you teach, but they will not be able to deny or refine your godly life. May we all be on the decrease in the carnal things of the flesh, and on the increase in our conforming to the image of Christ.

Denying self and exalting Christ is the way of discipleship (Lk. 9:23). Leaving the pattern of the world by your daily, spiritual sacrifice results in maturity (Rom. 12:1-2).

Now, who is increasing today--you or Christ?

-gls