

So we've been looking at **John 3:30 (read on screen)**

John the Baptist is answering a question about Jesus....in His answer we have John 3:30.

In other words JOHN THE BAPTIST IS SAYING JESUS IS ABOVE ALL.

That's what we've kind of said and learned the last few weeks as we've been in this series HE>I

We've talked about SCHOOL and last week Culture – we saw that even school is to be used for God's glory.

AND we learned that we can't allow culture to dictate how we live.....we can't look to this world to bring what only Christ can bring.

The thing is with those two things is it's hard....right?

To be in those two things and not be influenced in a negative way is hard isn't it?

These are probably the two biggest arenas you're in and battle in as a teen or pre-teen.

Even for adults...we substitute work for school....because we all struggle with culture.

None of us should ever think that we are strong enough to do that alone.

We need help.....we need to grasp and depend on the simple fact of John 3:30

We need to surround ourselves with people who have this same mind.

That is the only way you can go to school, live in this culture and not be dragged into the junk.

So the goal is to influence culture rather than allowing culture to influence you.

rather than you being changed by all the negatives...you bring change.

to understand that the HE>I life looks different that what we see in Culture

and then we go out and we live.....**BUT HOW?**

I want us to look at 4 things that will help us live this HE>I life. There's a ton...but we'll look at 4.

If we understand and become secure in these 4 areas...I honestly think it'll help us deny self and follow Christ daily....confident, victorious, producing fruit and glorifying God.

disclaimer – they all start with “understand”

BY “UNDERSTAND” I mean grasp, lay hold of, cement in your thinking, apply to your life.

1. Understand that you were meant to be spent for God and His glory. - 1 Corinthians 10:31 – {whatever}

If you/we can grasp the fact that we are here for God's glory it will help every aspect of your life.

Love this quote – **nothing ever comes about that dismisses the priority of glorifying God with your life.**

another one....COLOSIAINS 3:17 - “WHATEVER” do everything in His name.

still....this is hard...because of culture right...because sometimes you feel the desire to go out from this.

that is why who you choose to be with...in relationship with...is huge....GUARD THAT.

more on that next week.....

We have a saying in our house – HDH (Honor God, Do Your Best, Have Fun)

The HONOR GOD is simply this – Glorify Him with your life....Please Him, Follow Him.

It means that we are meant to be spent for God and His glory – GO AND DO THIS.

You know what spending money looks like right? You may not know the real cost to spending money.

But you do know what it means to spend something.

So think about how you spend time, money, passion, pursuits, energy, thinking, mind, talent.

You must have money before you can spend money....you get that right?

God has gifted you in different ways....He has first given to us....

The hope is that you spend all that He has given on Him.

you may be thinking this....if I spend it all on Him what's for me?

HE IS FOR YOU – we have this incredible freedom to move and live in this great world....

to go and do whatever we desire so long as it brings glory to Him.....**BE SPENT FOR HIM>**

2.- Understand that as a follower your identity is found in Christ

all of creation...well humans....care about identity.

what you wear, how you sound, how you look all matter....and the bad thing is this...you don't fret over those things because of what you think...**it's more because of what others think.**

and understand your parents still struggle with this....shoot...your grandparents struggle with it.

But let's look at **1 Tim. 4:12**.....Paul is encouraging Timothy here. (TIMOTHY WAS YOUNG, Headed to a battle) he was going to lead a church. a very difficult situation where culture was going opposite of Christ.

Paul offers encouragement.....He says this....**(vv.11-12)**

"Don't let anyone look down on your youth" **why would he say this?**

There was an expectation maybe....a perception it couldn't be done.

IN a way Paul is saying this....don't let your identity...who you are, what you are called to do be hindered by perception.....Don't be swayed by culture.

So that has something to do with our IDENTITY...the perception people may have of us.

BUT that's not really the struggle today I don't think. I think it's more about IMAGE...

maybe trying to do things, wear things, say things, listen, watch for the approval of others.

You're not alone.....every house is full of mirrors for a reason. none of us want to look bad....

a bit deeper, none of us want a bad image, We care about perception.

The challenge is to not allow that to change you or determine who you really are.

It's a struggle to be something so bad we attempt to find the cheap way there.

Part of it is just a self esteem issues....maybe we listen to the lies others tell us.

You're fat, skinny, hairy, bald,

LISTEN TO ME – **you'll never be able to meet the standards of every person you'll meet.**

if you change for one person then you'll end up having to change that thing for another.

LIKE WE SAID LAST WEEK – YOU BE YOU....just ensure that YOU are in Christ.

Don't expect this world to bring what only Christ can offer.

Your identity is found in Christ....this means you are a child of God....the greatest title, the greatest status, the highest of all compliments have already been given to you in Christ.

The struggle is reminding yourself of this every time you walk out your door. RIGHT?

the struggle of identity.

but once you can deal with the fact that God has created you and anyone that has a problem with how you are, how you look or who you're created in the image of.....they need to take that up with God.

GEN. 1:26-27 – trust this, know this, and walk in this.

I know it doesn't help darla and debbi when they make fun

I know it doesn't make trevor notice you.

I know it doesn't up your rate game in the TBH world of instagram....but really?

But stop and consider the end game....what does it matter in 100 years?

all that matter is this.....**You are His and His is your (Is. 43:1)**

SO WHAT NOW?

1. **Be confident in the mission.** All that He has given to you, used for Him. **be spent for His glory.**

What does that look like for you? How can you be spent for His glory...used for Him.

what are you holding back...how are you holding back?

2. **Be Confident in who you are.** our only worth is found in Him. **Your identity is found in Christ.**

What does this look like for you? Are you doing things, living in a way, acting in a way that you hope bring significance that is only found in Christ? Are you trying to please people rather than know who you already are in Christ? Do you realize that nothing you can do can change who's you are?

Don't fall into the game of doing, saying, acting to become something greater...it's impossible.