



**Sermon Title: "The Joy of Christ-Exalting Passion"**

**Scripture: John 3:22-36**

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## Introduction

**John 3:14-15, 19-20 -**

Darkness is...

- ...the absence of Christ, who is the Light!
- ...rebellion to the supremacy & lordship of Christ.
- ...the elevation of anything above Christ.
- ...the worship of, the treasuring of, anything more than Jesus.

**John 3:21 -**

Note: There is continuity between verse 21 and what follows: The Apostle John has shown us an unbeliever (Nicodemus) and now he will show us John the Baptist (who exemplifies verse 21 - desiring to put all the attention and focus on Christ).

## I. John the Baptist: A Beautiful Example of One who Rightly Exalted Christ

### A. The Occasion: Controversy Concerning Purification (verses 22-26)

1) While controversy & disagreement may be uncomfortable, it can also be profitable!

**James 1:1-2, 12; 1 Peter 1:6-7 -**

2) There was a time of "ministry overlap" with Jesus and John the Baptist.

3) While we don't know exactly what the controversy was concerning purification, based upon what John's disciples say to him, it probably had something to do with baptism.

Note: There's nothing uglier than proud, protective, petty jealousy (and it's in ALL of us!).

**Numbers 11:29; Luke 9:49-50; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, 4:1-5 -**

### B. The Response: Christ-Exalting Passion (verses 27-30)

1) Humility comes as we recognize & embrace the sovereignty of God, in all things!

**James 1:17 -**

2) Exalting Christ as supreme elevates our joy & satisfaction in Him!

## II. Seven Reasons Why Christ MUST BE Believed & Exalted Above All

1) Jesus came down to earth FROM heaven! (verse 31)

**John 6:33, 38; 5:51 -**

2) Jesus has & gives firsthand information! (verse 32)

**John 8:38 -**

3) The Father Himself testifies to the credibility & authority of His Son! (verse 33)

**Matthew 3:17; 17:5; 1 John 5:10 -**

4) When Jesus speaks, He speaks the very words of God! (verse 34)

5) Jesus was filled-with, empowered-by, and gives the fullness of the Holy Spirit. (verse 34)

**Luke 4:1, 14; John 21:22; 16:7; 2:33 -**

6) EVERYTHING has been given and handed over to the Son! (verse 35)

**John 13:3 -**

7) Jesus alone can give eternal life and save us from the wrath of God. (verse 36)

### Conclusion...

1) It is a LIVING relationship that begins with new birth!

2) It is a LOVING relationship; Jesus is the Groom and we are His Bride!

3) It is a LEARNING relationship; we must follow and submit to Him and His Word.

### Take Home Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1) *What is "darkness", as described in John's Gospel? How does darkness show/reveal itself?*

2) *What are some of the benefits of controversy, difficulty, and hard questions?*

3) *Why were John the Baptist's disciples so bothered? What had happened?*

4) *What are some ways that you have seen, experienced, and/or wrestled with jealousy? What is the root cause of jealousy? Where does it come from?*

5) *How does John the Baptist's answer to his disciples help us to combat sins of pride and jealousy in our own lives? In his answer, what truths does John remind us of?*

6) *How does exalting Christ elevate our joy and confidence in Him?*

7) *According to verses 31-36, why is Jesus trustworthy? Why should we believe and follow Him?*