

The Person & Work of God the Son

Study 10

In our continuing study of the nature of Jesus we've discovered that He has called us to live a life like His. If we want to be great in His eyes, we must be the *servant* of all, have *childlike* faith, and see ourselves as the *younger*. This evening we'll learn that to be great in the Kingdom of God we must also be the *last* and the *least*.

1) The last

Jesus said...

"If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

Mark 9:35

We live in a culture that puts great emphasis on winning—whether it is being first in a foot race with our siblings or beating our co-workers in monthly sales volume. There aren't many activities in life where you can win a trophy for being last!

Why then does Jesus tell us that in the Kingdom of God the *winner* is the person who is *last*?

2) The Church

In 1st Corinthians 12 the Apostle Paul tells us that the Church is like a body in that it is made up of many parts. Each part is necessary, and each part must cooperate with the other parts to accomplish God's will.

How does competition between the various parts in our physical body destroy it? What's the lesson for us as we consider our part in bringing unity to the Body of Christ?

Have you ever noticed that in any competition that there are more *losers* than *winner*s; how does choosing to be last foster cooperation and harmony in a local church?

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3) Being the least

Jesus said that the path to greatness is found when we see ourselves as the *least*.

“For he who is **least** among you all will be great.”
Luke 9:48

Paul tells us that Jesus lived His life as the *least* when He...

“made Himself of **no reputation**...” ~ Philippians 2:7 NKJV

Or as the NIV renders it..

“made Himself **nothing**...”

It doesn't appear that Jesus was concerned about His *reputation*; so why do we care so much about protecting ours?

Jesus does want us to be people who have a Christlike *character* (Galatians 5:22-23 & Colossians 3:12-13). What's the difference between our *character* and our *reputation*?

How does seeing ourselves as *least* free us from worry about what other people think of us?

Ultimately who is able to protect and promote your character? How does that knowledge bring peace and freedom from anxiety? (Psalm 75:6-7).
