

Becoming Less

By Scott Moller

“Now we are the children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

(1 John 3:2 NIV)

In John chapter 3, John the Baptist was confronted with a supposed dilemma. It was brought to John's attention that Jesus was drawing more followers than John. Shouldn't he be concerned? Surprisingly, John responded, *“He must become greater, I must become less”* (John 3:30). John the Baptist understood what we so often forget. Being a Child of God is not about us but about the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The purpose of sanctification and becoming mature Christians is so that the world would see less of us and more of the true reflection of Jesus.

Jesus Christ is the perfect standard of a Child of God. He lived the completely obedient life, for He *“had no sin”* (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus continually set His will aside to be subject to the will of the Father as seen when He prayed to His Father, *“yet not my will, but yours be done”* (Luke 22:42). And *“being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!”* (Phil. 2:8) We are to *“fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Heb. 12:2).

The great hope of the Child of God is becoming like the Son of God. The Apostle John gives us the promise that at Jesus' coming, *“we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is”* (1 John 3:2b). We will be like Christ in His resurrection, as Paul describes in 1 Cor. 15, for Christ was the first-fruits of the resurrection, and we will follow later.

While in the world, we are subject to the curse of death and mortality, but as a Child of God we will have victory over death through Jesus Christ. Praise be to God!