

I MUST DECREASE

Clinton Curtis



My generation is fixated upon changing the world. You wouldn't have to search very far to find Hyphens that are head over heels in love with the idea of "turning their world upside down." Don't misunderstand me; there is nothing wrong with that. In fact, there's a whole lot right with that! Yet in our pursuit to make a difference in our society, it's easy to become intoxicated with the desire to be great and to do incredible things. It's easy to cave in to the allure of being a "somebody" and to have notable accomplishments. Look around society today and you'll see a generation of people who are overwhelmed with the need to see their dreams come to fruition. You'll see a culture that is captivated with dreaming bigger, being ambitious, and becoming important.

Oftentimes, no matter if we're referring to the sacred or the secular, our definition of success revolves around growing in prestige or pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. With Scripture to anchor us, how is it possible that we've relegated the idea of becoming successful (even in a Christian sense) to the concept of ascending to ministerial heights?

Perhaps John the Baptist said it best: "He must increase, but I must decrease." What if, instead of constantly reaching, striving, and posturing for position, we believed God has already given us the fame and prestige He wants us to have? That God wasn't waiting on us to become famous before He could use us to do His will?

Despite what culture might say, exalting my own name or ministry does very little to bring glory to His kingdom. Could it be that in a society that is fixated upon being known, the greatest thing I could do is become content with being relatively unknown? How would we feel about being the young boy with the loaves and the fish? Would we be willing to remain nameless? Would we be willing to offer up our portion to our Savior with no guarantee of compensation or notoriety, yet in complete obedience allow God to work His miracle through our small offering?

At least to me, that's what decreasing is all about: being content with being relatively unknown so Christ can be made more known. It's not about turning down legitimate platforms from which we could share Jesus with others, but about ceasing to yearn for the spotlight or constant recognition. It's about understanding that God has placed me right where He wants me to be. It's about being willing to be temporarily hungry so many more may be filled. It's about becoming less concerned with my name and my kingdom so that others might come to know His.

"He must increase, but I must decrease."