

Decrease Second Week of Christmas Saturday, January 9, 2016 8:15 AM
1 Jn 5:14-21; **Jn 3:22-30** (BVM) (If we really trust God, if we really realize that we could never create ourselves and we cannot sustain ourselves and that everything that has happened is really from some other power, some source beyond us, well, why can't we trust that?)

“He must increase; I must decrease.”

What is being spoken of here? Who is he? He is the Word of God incarnate. **He is God's awareness in human form, joined to human form, joined in unity. He must increase.** This means that **what Jesus is must increase throughout the human race.** Indeed, this is why the human race was created the way it was created **so that it could become one with God, united in awareness.**

What makes human beings an image of God is the feeling of “I.” When Moses asked God who we was, he said, “I AM WHO AM, *Eniy asher Eniy*, I AM WHO AM.” I AM is God. **Every image of God has the same feeling and the freedom to bring that feeling into unity with its source, exemplified by Jesus himself, fully human and yet fully divine, in perfect harmony with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.**

But another option is to make oneself the center. I am myself, or I am my group. So we have **individualism, tribalism, nationalism, every kind of identity apart from the whole, apart from the source: God.** In a way, every identity, every feeling of “I” that is not united to God is, in a way, satan. “Satan” means the “adversary”; it's both a name and a description. It's the description of first and foremost a heavenly being who refused communion with God. **But every human being has this feeling of “I,” this heavenly power, this divine power, and if it's misused, it is evil, it is satanic, it is diabolical.** Diabolus means “the one who divides.” Well, **we divide ourselves from God and God's creation when we are isolated, when we separate ourselves. That is what sin is.**

So John says, “I must decrease—I must decrease; he must increase.” **His awareness must increase in me. My idea of myself, my ego, that has to go down, decrease.** It’s too small—it’s too small. It’s too petty. It’s too limited. And if I take it seriously, if I think that’s really what’s important, then I am forming a lie about myself. And the devil is the father of lies. The diabolus, the one who divides, is the father of lies because our pettiness is a lie. We are created for grandeur. We are created for unity with God, the source of all being, I AM WHO AM.

Now we are living in a world that refuses to decrease, where people want to promote themselves: their nationality, their ethnic identity, often in a very defensive way. It’s as if, well, if we don’t do this, we will all disappear. Well, that’s the idea. I must decrease. **I must disappear as an identity so that I can enter into the identity of God.** This is really what salvation history is leading to and it’s being resisted all over the place. Every form of ethnic identity, **every form of individualism is resisting this movement toward God.** And, yes, it’s evil; and, yes, it’s satanic; and, yes, it’s diabolical. **It’s contrary to God’s salvific, redemptive love.**

Now is decreasing scary? Maybe, that’s where trust comes in. If we really trust God, if we really realize that we could never create ourselves and we cannot sustain ourselves and that everything that has happened is really from some other power, some source beyond us, well, why can’t we trust that? That’s what John is asking.