

## "I am Second"

When you hear the saying "I am Second" what does that mean to you?

Just a reminder: Jesus' ways are almost always in opposition to the world's ways! The world tells all of us to be first, whatever it takes you must be first!

### John 3:30

He must **become** greater; I must **become less**.

What is it that these guys have figured out?

They have figured out that if I am first, it messes everything up. It messes up relationships because I am only thinking of myself and other people feel trampled and run over. It messes up our lives because I live for what I want and what I need so then I suffer the consequences of following my plan instead of God's plan.

Too many people are living out the opposite of this verse: I must become greater, he must become less.

Let's take a look at what it means that I am second.

God has a better plan than we do for our life, because we have a sinful nature, we do sinful things! When we have the idea that we are first, we do what we want ahead of what God wants. Some people always fight against the way God wants us to live so they keep following the sinful nature and continue to get the same results! Do you know what the definition of an idiot is? Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results! One of my goals when I started doing youth ministry was to help students not make some of the same mistakes that I had made and had watched others make. I will continue to do what God has called me to do and that is to preach His word and warn students about putting yourself first. Biblically, doing it our own way doesn't work, experience proves that it doesn't work, yet Satan deceives us into thinking that we can be first and live out our sinful nature and get different results free from the consequences!

People like Hugo and others by God's grace have figured out that their way doesn't work and that only putting God first and living according to His ways and His plans works!

Examples:

Colossians 3:18-21

**Vs. 18 – We live in a world where wives have said “I am first” in this relationship and then wonder why their husbands take a back seat or work long hours or go to the bar to drink. Putting ourselves first doesn’t work, only God’s way works.**

**Vs. 19 – We have a whole lot of husbands being harsh with their wives and then they wonder why their wives don’t give them the respect and admiration they so long for. Instead doing it God’s way we say, I am in charge of my household and I will tell them how things should be.**

**Vs. 20 – I have had more students than I care to think about that disobey or dishonor their parents and wonder why things aren’t going well for them. They have put themselves and what they want as number one above how God tells children to live. And we wonder why our parents don’t trust us, do things for us, etc. We make life so hard on ourselves because we aren’t willing to bow the knee and put God first and do it His way.**

**If you put yourself first, above God, you will always come out in second place!!! You will not enjoy the life that God wants you to have. Instead of having the freedom to enjoy life, you will live with regret, fear, guilt, and consequences.**

**Vs. 21 – We have fathers that are neglecting their children or speaking to their children in ways that make them very bitter and discouraged and then wonder why our kids don’t want to be at home or around us, why they have no direction in life, or why they can’t wait to leave home. God’s plan is for fathers to train up their children in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it! Instead we spend all our time trying to make money to buy bigger houses and fancier cars and neglect our children. Too many father put their success ahead of how God describes success, that of raising up the next generation to follow Him.**

**The examples could go on and on about how we put ourselves and what we want ahead of what God wants.**

**I Corinthians 6:18-20 Read**

**Sex outside of marriage is a pretty common thing. At a certain age this is what our minds and bodies start to desire. If we put ourselves and what we desire first, then we get broken relationships, disease, and it affects our personalities, our emotions, etc. When we put God first and how He tells us to live, then we can have freedom in that relationship, we can enjoy sex without the fear of disease, without emotional trauma, and free of guilt or worry.**

**I am Second is about putting my desires, my hopes and dreams, my wants, my life second to what God wants for my life, knowing that what He wants for me is far better than what I even want for myself!**

God loves us! He made us! There is nothing you are more passionate about or love more than the things that you have made or worked hard to accomplish. God is the same way, He made each one of us and he is passionate about giving us the best of what He has. When we put ourselves first we circumvent that and prevent God from giving His best to us and instead we get the consequences.

God loved us enough to send his Son to die in our place! Unfortunately for us Adam and Eve were the first ones to put themselves first and put what God wanted second. They suffered the consequences of that choice, getting kicked out of the garden. Unfortunately, we inherited this from them and the sin nature has been passed down to us. We come by putting ourselves first very naturally. So God, in His love for us, wanted us to still be able to have the life he originally wanted for us. He did this by sending His Son Jesus Christ into the world to die in our place. God had put into effect the fact that blood had to be shed for sin, so when sin was committed it required a blood sacrifice to cover that sin. Jesus was that blood sacrifice!

Romans 3:23 tells us “The wages of sin is death” – death is the result of sin, it’s the consequences to our sin. As we learn from Adam and Eve, it may not mean physical death but spiritual, relational, emotional, or physiological death. With sin comes the death or deterioration of our relationship with God. The last part of that verse says “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God has given us each the opportunity to reverse this process and choose to put Him first. It comes naturally to sin and put ourselves in first place; it is a choice we make to put God and His son Jesus Christ in first place in our lives.

This is a choice that Hugo made and a choice that these other two guys have made. It is a choice that you and I have to make on a daily basis. Am I going to put myself and what I want first, or am I going to put what God and what He wants first?

A couple of things to consider:

1. No matter where you are or what you have done, you can still make the choice to change chairs with God and put Him in first place.
2. When we accept this gift of eternal life by accepting the gift of Jesus Christ’s blood in place of your own for your sins you get an added bonus. The Holy Spirit comes in and lives within us to help us make the daily decision to put God first in our daily lives.
3. There are really two choices we have to make:
  - a. First, the choice to accept God’s gift to us of the blood of His Son Jesus Christ to cover our sins and so that we can have a relationship with God the Father. We must accept this gift.
    - i. Romans 10:9-10 tells us how: “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

- ii. This is where too many Christians stop; hey, I'm saved! And now let's put me back in first place. We prove our decision by our actions, by making the second choice.
    - b. Second is the choice to continue to put God in the first chair every day of our lives. We do this by living according to His Word.
      - i. We prove it by obeying and honoring our parents, by waiting for marriage for sex, by speaking gently and respectfully to others, by telling the truth and all the other things that are in God's word.
- 4. Some of you have already made the choice to put God first in your life and are living out the daily battle of putting God first in your life every day! Some of you have never made the choice of putting God first, you are squarely in first place in your life and you believe that you can do it your way and be just fine and the consequences will never happen to you. Some of you have never made the choice to put God first but you are thinking about it and considering it right now but you have questions about what this means. Some of you have never made the choice of putting God first and you are thinking, "Wow, this sounds pretty good, my way doesn't seem to be working. From looking at other peoples' lives, their way doesn't seem to be working either, I want to do it God's way!"
  - a. If you have already made the decision, keep on putting God first.
  - b. If you believe that you can do it how you want to apart from God's way, I would beg and plead with you to rethink this approach to life.
  - c. If you have questions about what it means to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, please talk to someone about your questions. We have adults who would love to talk to you, or there are students who would be happy to talk to you about it as well.
  - d. If you are ready to make the switch and put God first in your life and desire to live life God's way, I ask that you pray this prayer with me.
    - i. Dear God, I realize that I have been putting myself in first place in my life. I desire to put you in first place. I understand and accept your gift of your Son dying in my place. I ask that you would come into my life and start to make me into the person you created me to be and help me to put you in first place every day. In Jesus' name, Amen