

3 John 1:9-10

Diotrephes

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- ⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. ¹⁰ Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church.

Diotrephes

- Only mentioned in one passage of the Bible.
- What do we know about him?
- Why is he mentioned in 3 John?

Background of 3 John

- Written to Gaius
- ¹ The Elder, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: ² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 3 John 1:1-4

What do we learn about Diotrephes?

- **1] He loves to be first – preeminence**
 - Either he was in a leadership role
 - OR he wanted to be a leader in the church

What do we learn about Diotrephes?

- **2] He refuses to welcome the apostles into the church**
 - Why? We don't know
 - Perhaps a fear of their greater power

What do we learn about Diotrephes?

- **3] He maliciously spreads gossip about men of God**
 - Whisperers, tale-bearers, gossips
 - Spreading stories to harm their reputation

What do we learn about Diotrephes?

- **4] He withholds hospitality from other believers**
 - He does not accept other brethren
 - He is not willing to fellowship others

What do we learn about Diotrephes?

- **5] He requires others to follow his poor example**
 - He set himself as the example
 - He wanted everyone to be as he is

What do we learn about Diotrephes?

- **6] He excommunicates anyone who crosses him**
 - He acted as judge and jury over the church
 - Church discipline must involve all in the congregation – not the action of one man.

How to deal with Diotrephes

- John hopes to come to visit Gaius
- John will publicly rebuke Gaius
 - The slander, sectarianism, and self-seeking would be dealt with
 - John will not “sweep it under the rug”



Gaius is the Opposite

- Gaius shows hospitality to apostles and others who come
- Gaius walked in the truth (vs. 3-4)

Who are you like?

- Diotrephes OR Gaius?
- Condemned OR Commended?