

Whose Name Matters Most

3rd John 9-15

1. A Man to Correct (vv. 9-10)

Verse 9 tells us the root of the problem that Diotrephes had, which was self-centeredness and verse 10 tells us the fruit of that heart condition. He spoke wicked nonsense and throws out people who welcome the brothers and respect the authority of the Apostles.

Diotrephes wanted to be in charge and to rule over “his” church. This meant that he rejected John’s and even God’s own authority, because to acknowledge their authority would require him humbling himself and lowering his own position, which he was completely unwilling to do.

John says, in verse 10, that he would bring up the things that Diotrephes was doing, and he would do so publicly to the entire congregation to tell them that he is deeply in sin.

2. A Man to Commend (vv. 11-15)

One either imitates good like Gaius or evil like Diotrephes, there is no middle ground. One only can be either good or evil.

“Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God” - 3rd John 11b

Demetrius is also mentioned in this epistle as a model of what it is to be a good Christian. He is spoken well of by everyone and even by the Truth itself.