

Intro:

III. The Man who Loved the Preeminence

A. Diotrephes' Personal Ambition - vs 9

1. Contrast between Gaius and Diotrephes

a. Gaius

- i. graciously hospitable
- ii. Loved and submitted himself to the truth
- iii. Loved other humbly

b. Diotrephes

- i. Ungraciously inhospitable
- ii. Refused truth and spouted contempt
- iii. Loved himself
- iv. Threatened others from his position of self-appointed authority

c. the difference was not doctrinal, but behavioral

2. John's evaluation of Diotrephes

a. I wrote to the church

b. but Diotrephes

- i. **Diotrephes** - lit. nourished by Zeus; Diotrephes, an opponent of Christianity. Not a common name like Gaius
- ii. who loves to have the preeminence among them
 - **philoproteuo** - to be fond of being first, ambitious of distinction:-- love to have the preeminence. Comes from **phileo** and **protos**
 - describes a person who is selfish, self-centered, and self-seeking
- iii. does not receive us. - one thing to reject an unknown itinerant pastor, but to reject the authority of an apostle of Christ only shows arrogance

B. Diotrephes' Perverted Actions - vs 10

1. Therefore = For this reason

2. if I come,

a. I will call to mind his deeds which he does, - John will not overlook the challenge of his apostolic authority and Christ's rule in His church

b. John's four indictments

- i. prating against us with malicious words
 - character assassination - destroying people's trust in other leaders
 - unjustly accusing - only used here - related to gossip
- ii. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren,
 - seeing preachers as a threat to his own power,
 - he wouldn't show hospitality which Scripture commands
- iii. and forbids those who wish to,
- iv. putting them out of the church.

C. Demetrius' Commendable Contrast - vs 10-12

1. Not a break from the topic, but an introduction

a. Beloved, speaking to Gaius

b. Don't be like Diotrephes

- i. do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. - **Ps 37:27; Isa 1:16-17; 1Pe 3:11**
- ii. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. - **1Jo 2:29; 3:6,9**

2. The introduction

- a. Demetrius - may have delivered the letter to Gaius
 - i. belonging to Demeter, the Greek goddess of grain and the harvest
 - one so named was a silversmith in Ephesus who started a riot due to financial loss b/c Paul was preaching the Gospel - Ac 19:23-41
 - Demas was a shortened form of the name - Col 4:14; 2 Ti 4:10; Phl 24
 - ii. has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself.
 - well known in the Christian community
 - was committed to living in the truth
- b. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true. - Jo 21:24

D. Closing - vs 13-14

1. I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;
 - a. closing much like 2Jo 12
 - b. Having many things to write to you, - there's a lot more to say
 - c. I did not wish to do so with paper and ink - probable not the best mode
2. but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face.
3. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.
 - a. Desired blessing - Peace in the midst of the conflict within the church
 - b. mutual friends here and there
 - i. those with John send greetings
 - ii. John sends greeting to those with Gaius