

## Imitate Good not Evil

3 John 9-14

### I. Diotrephes, the Controller: John exposes the arrogance of Diotrephes (3 John 9-11).

- A. John had written to Gaius' church before, but Diotrephes had suppressed the letter (9)
  - 1. He wants to be "in charge."
  - 2. He doesn't want to let outside speakers in.
- B. When John comes he will bring up to the whole church what Diotrephes is doing (10).
  - 1. He is spreading gossip about John.
  - 2. He doesn't let other Bible teachers in.
  - 3. He expels those who want to host outside teachers.

#### Overcoming our "Need" to Control

- 1. **Relax** – Recognize the security of our relationship with Christ. There is nothing to prove. We are unconditionally loved. God will use us significantly, but on His terms.
- 2. **Submit** – Submit to God and to people. We don't always know best. Willingly make yourself accountable to other people and groups. Bounce things off of others! Don't be a lone ranger!
- 3. **Let go and Share (Delegation/Teamwork)** – God put others in the body of Christ for a reason. They have different perspectives and gifts. God wants to use them to complete what we lack.

- C. John urges Gaius to imitate the good examples he knows, not the bad (11).
  - 1. Imitate good examples, not evil.
  - 2. Someone who does evil is acting out of their sinful flesh and has lost sight of who God is.

### II. Demetrius, the Godly Teacher: John affirms the good example of Demetrius (3 John 12-14)

- A. Demetrius has a proven reputation in his life and doctrine.
- B. John also approves of Demetrius by personal experience.
- C. Conclusion: John anticipates a personal visit (13-14).