

Outline for A Giver- A Taker- A Doer

3 John

3-22-2020

This book is actually a story of three different men. If you are familiar with these 3 men then you will know the main teaching of 3rd John.

Verse 1 speaks of **Gaius**—the man to whom John wrote his letter.

Verse 9 speaks of **Diotrophes**—an opponent of John

Verse 12 speaks of **Demetrius**—a good and faithful man.

This short little epistle contains a fascinating snapshot of three personalities in one first-century church. We don't know where the church was located or when the letter was written but we do have these three names and their character qualities.

I. **Gaius—A Generous Man 1-8**

Gaius was evidently a Christian leader in a local church who was both well-known and well-loved by John the apostle. He is, in short, a fine Christian man.

If we look a bit closer at the text, we discover that he was a ...

1. **Balanced man.** verses 3 and 4

2. **Faithful man.** V 3, 5

3. **Big-hearted man.** V 5-8

Gaius excelled in this **gift of hospitality** even though these men were strangers to him.

Verse 8 adds the lovely thought that by supporting God's workers we actually become "**fellow workers**" of the truth.

Gaius was the kind of man that is an honor and a credit to the local church and the Kingdom of Christ.

II. Diotrophes—A **Taker** Man 9-11

Diotrophes. We can sum him up by saying that he is as bad as Gaius is good. If Gaius is the sunlight of noonday, Diotrophes is the blackness of midnight

Consider John's fivefold indictment of this divisive man, who takes authority unto himself. He is ...

1. **Self-willed**—"loves to be first." (9a)
2. **Rebellious to spiritual authority**: "will have nothing to do with us." (9b).
3. **A Slanderer**—"gossiping maliciously" (10a) The word means to babble nonsensical slander and empty lies.
4. **Ungracious**—"refuses to welcome the brothers." (10b)
5. **An Abuser of power**—"stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church." (10c)

Who is this man? Someone has called him the first "church boss." He is the first in a long line of men (and women) who rise to power in the local church only to use that power for ungodly ends

Verse 9 uncovers the basic problem: **He "loves to be first." But there is fine line (sometimes almost invisible) between proper enjoyment and improper ambition.**

How do you spot a modern-day Diotrophes?

1. Talks too much—dominating every conversation.
2. Has a critical spirit toward those who disagree with him.
3. Always taking sides and counting noses to see who has the power.
4. Thinks he could do things better than those currently in leadership.
5. Has a rebellious attitude toward the leaders who are over him.
6. Focuses exclusively on his group of friends.
7. Argues endlessly over minor details of church life.
8. Takes it personally when their advice is not followed.
9. Clings to positions of authority at all costs.
10. Sees new people as a threat to his power.

III. Demetrius—A Doer Man 12-13

Demetrius. We know very little about him, but everything we know is positive.

In biblical terms he is a man “above reproach”—meaning that his character is so strong that no accusation made against him can stand

Several take a ways:

1. We become like the people we follow. Who are you following?

Let’s flip that principle over for a moment. If we all became like you, what kind of church would we have?

2. The spirit of Diotrophes is alive and well today. It’s been my observation that most church splits happen over two issues: money and power.

“Lord, do I love to be first too much.” “Is there a divisive spirit in me?”

3. There is enormous wisdom in shared leadership. It’s harder for a Diotrophes to arise when there is a system of checks and balances. There truly is safety in numbers

4. The important thing is to know Jesus Christ personally. Look at how John describes the work of the traveling ministers in verse 7. They went out “for the sake of the Name.”

If you want to be saved, run to the cross of Christ. Lay hold of Jesus by faith. Fix all your hope on him. Those who trust in Jesus will never be disappointed.