
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: <https://www.abfboone.com/sermon-archive/>
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

3 John 9-15

[9] I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. [10] So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

[11] Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

[12] Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

[13] I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. [14] I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

[15] Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name. (ESV)

Sermon Outline

- I. Ungodly Diotrephes - Do Not Imitate Him (9-10)
- II. Godly Demetrius - Imitate Him (11-12)
- III. The Letter Closing (13-15)

Life Group Leader Notes:



Weekly Discussion Guide

- Well, we hardly knew you 3 John. We finished an entire New Testament book *in 2 weeks!* What were your main takeaways from this brief study? What will you remember about this book study? How did this study impact your life?
- The theme of this week's sermon was godly authority. Authority is a tricky subject in our world right now. Are you frustrated with abusive authority? Have you personally been in an environment with unhealthy authority? What did you learn? What are the world's answers to abusive authority? How does that differ with what we find in the Bible?
- Diotrephes was highlighted for his poor spiritual leadership. John even suggests that he was not a true believer (v. 11). We learned four lessons from his abusive leadership. It would be worth discussing these:
 1. Diotrephes did not accept apostolic authority. (This happens in our own context when people explicitly reject the teaching of the Bible). Specifically, Diotrephes wanted to be first. Do you have this same desire to be first? What can we learn from the teaching of Jesus about putting others first? What makes Christian leadership different? Who are some godly leaders that model this well?
 2. Diotrephes accused John with wicked words. Or more specifically, he *gossiped* against John's leadership. Is this something you struggle with? If so, were you convicted this Sunday? What is the danger of gossip? What would happen to a Christian community when gossip goes uncorrected? Is this a problem within the life group? Pastor Scott mentioned the Proverb's wealth of wisdom on gossip. If you want to dig further, here are a few Proverbs to check out: Proverbs 10:19; 11:9; 11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20; Also see Ephesians 4:29.
 3. Diotrephes refused to obey John's teaching to welcome the brothers. This was a biblical command. Have you been part of a church community where biblical obedience was discouraged? How can you make sure that our church, or your life group, doesn't become this type of community?
 4. Diotrephes did not receive the brothers. He put people out of the church, which was a serious offense in the 1st Century. Their spiritual lives were jeopardized. Pastor Scott suggested the Diotrephes needed to be disciplined. Have you been in a situation when a church leader needed to be disciplined? See 1 Timothy 5:17-25.
- Demetrius, by contrast, was a worthy leader. He had received good testimony from *everyone*, from the *truth*, and from *John* himself. Could the same be said of your life? Are you living a life worthy of imitation? Why or why not? What needs to change in order to live a worthy life? If you are living a life worthy of imitation, have you invited anyone to imitate you?
- John closed his letter with a desire to see the church *face to face*. Pastor Scott said: *both encouragement and confrontation are done better face to face*. It is easy to hide behind a text or an email. Have you ever tried to have a difficult conversation online? How did that go? Has this become a habit of yours in the digital age? How can you grow in this area? Who models this well?

