

First but Last
III John 9-14
September 22, 2024

- I. Review and Introduction**
 - A. Author and Recipients
 - B. John's prayer for Gaius
- II. Commendation of Gaius – vs. 3-8**
 - A. For his conduct – vs. 3, 4
 - B. For his hospitality – vs. 5-8
- III. Condemnation for Diotrephes – vs. 9, 10**
 - A. The Problem stated – v. 9a
 - 1. John had written the church and Diotrephes either did not read the letter to the church or undermined what John said
 - 2. Diotrephes was functioning as a dictator instead of an overseer
 - B. The Problem: Its Cause and Effects
 - Cause*
 - 1. Diotrephes loved to be first. Same root as Colossians 1:18. Problems with Diotrephes' choice.
 - a. Jesus will not share first place with anyone or thing.
 - i. Matthew 6:24; I Timothy 6:10; II Timothy 4:10
 - b. You can either be a lord or a servant
 - i. Matthew 20:25, 26; John 3:30; 1 Peter 5:2, 3
 - c. He failed one of maturities most objective tests. How do you handle authority? (Another is how do you handle criticism? see: Joshua 22)
 - d. He profaned a high calling
 - i. Ezekeil 34:1-10
 - e. A warning self-love destroys and violates all relationships
 - Cause*
 - 2. The church failed to keep Diotrephes under control
 - a. Maybe in the name of love or unity
 - b. Maybe out of fear
 - Effect*
 - 3. He (due to a distorted view of himself) did not respond to Apostolic authority – vs. 9c; 10 b, c
 - a. Those who view themselves too highly (Romans 12:3) fall prey to jealous spirit.
 - i. I Samuel 18:8, 9
 - b. They also fall prey to a competitive spirit
 - i. He viewed John as a threat to his authority – v. 9c
 - ii. He viewed traveling teachers in the same way – v. 10b
 - iii. He put out of the church those who disagreed with him – v. 10c
 - C. The Problem: Its Cure – v. 10a
 - 1. Call public attention to what was done
 - a. Ephesians 5:11
 - 2. Note: John did not say he would remove Diotrephes. Even as an apostle he left that up to the congregation.
- IV. Exhortation to Gaius – v.11**
 - A. What not to do
 - 1. Do not imitate what is evil – Matthew 10:16
 - 2. I Corinthians 14:20; 15:33
 - B. What to do
 - 1. Do imitate good
 - 2. Philippians 3:17-19
- V. Recommendation of Demetrius – v. 12**
 - A. By others
 - B. By the truth
 - C. By John
- VI. Conclusion – vs. 13, 14**
 - A. His desire for further communication and instruction – vs. 13, 14a
 - 1. Some things should be written and documented
 - 2. Some things should be said face to face
 - B. His desire for God's blessings on Gaius – v. 14b
 - 1. Peace with God
 - 2. Peace of God
 - C. His greetings and request – v. 14c
 - 1. He sends greetings from friends to Gaius
 - 2. He sends greetings to mutual friends