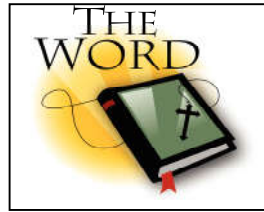


3RD JOHN 1:9-13

John closes his third letter by pointing out some characters that they should take particular note of. One is a good example. One is not.



⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church. ¹¹ Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil...

Obviously this is “bad guy.” What does John identify as his major problem in verse 9?

What does this fault in his character lead him to do?

What does John say they should not do?

Moving on, let’s read about the “good guy.” John says...

^{11b} Imitate what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone--and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

What is John saying about Demetrius?

How would you compare his reputation to that of Diotrephes?

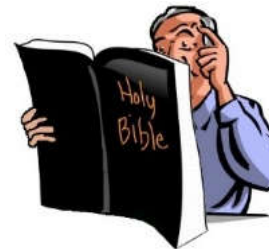
Who speaks well of him?

John ends this letter much as he did his previous one.

¹³ I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. ¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

How would you describe his sentiments?

What does the fact that John tells them to greet people there “by name” indicate to you?



Points to Ponder

Think for a few moments about your personal reputation. What might a leader in the church say about you?

How does John’s instruction here line up with that of Paul in 1st Corinthians 11:1 and 1st Thessalonians 5:19-22??

Which of the two men mentioned here is least like Gaius, to whom this letter is addressed?