

3 John: What is Your Reputation? Sunday a.m. 2/18/2018

- ❖ John, the Elder, wrote a letter to Gaius
- ❖ Other men in the New Testament are named Gaius, but not the same
- ❖ Again, John shows the importance of truth and love for each other

🌟 **Love is the result of living in the truth**

- ❖ This letter is:
 - ✚ A commendation of Gaius
 - ✚ A warning about Diotrephes
 - ✚ A recommendation of Demetrius
- ❖ John uses the word testify or bear witness six times in this letter
 - ✚ Martureo, *mar-too-reh'-o*, means to affirm what one has seen
- 🌟 **Members of the church and community saw that Gaius and Demetrius looked like the truth they believed**

- ❖ The testimony of Diotrephes was the opposite

🌟 **The good testimony of Gaius and Demetrius stands out in contrast to the bad testimony of Diotrephes**

✚ **John understood the importance of reputation**

- ❖ John Wooden won 10 NCAA championships in basketball in 12 years and won 88 consecutive games
 - 🌟 **He is known for his unwavering commitment to building character, demonstrating integrity, and focusing on values**
- ❖ His quotes are used by coaches and business management

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

"Talent is God given. Be humble. Fame is man given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful."

✚ Warren Buffet knows the importance of reputation

"If you lose dollars for the firm, I will be understanding. If you lose reputation for the firm, I will be ruthless,"

■ **Gaius: A Reputation of Faithfulness (1-8)**

• **John loved Gaius (1)**

❖ John used the term beloved four times concerning Gaius **(2, 5, 11)**

beloved – favorite, worthy of love

❖ John's love for Gaius was anchored in truth, the gospel, the Word

• **John was concerned about the health of Gaius (2)**

• **John heard of the reputation of Gaius (3)**

❖ Church members told John that Gaius walked in truth

✚ His life was on display for the world to see

✚ His life was a reflection of Christ, Who is the truth

✚ His life was consistent (John heard it over and over)

• **John rejoiced in this good news (4)**

❖ No greater joy than to hear his children live a life that reflects truth

joy - gladness, delight

❖ **No greater** is a double comparative... "more better" (A. T. Robertson)

🌀 **My joy can't get any better, nothing can surpass this**

- **John commended Gaius (5-8)**

- ✚ Gaius produced results; **you do (5a)**
- ✚ Gaius could be relied on; he was **faithful (5b)**
- ✚ Gaius provided hospitality **(5c)** a custom of the times

⊛ **He provided food and a place to stay, as well as financial support to evangelist and preachers that came through town**

- ✚ Gaius ministry was recognized by the church **(6a)**

⊛ **Not for praise, but for an example**

- **John provides a purpose for ministry (6b-8)**

- ✚ This ministry was worthy of God **(6b)** what God wants us to do
- ✚ This ministry pleases God **(6c)** **(do well)**
- ✚ This ministry was “in His Name” **(7a)** going in His purpose and calling
- ✚ This ministry is necessary **(7b)** unbelievers did not support ministry
- ✚ This ministry is something we should do **(8a)**
- ✚ This ministry makes us partners **(8b)**

⊛ **When we financially support missionaries or other ministries, we become partners in their work for the kingdom of God**

❖ Paul says we are workers together with Christ **(2 Corinthians 6:1)**

- **Diotrephes: A Reputation of Distrust (9-10)**

- ❖ Diotrephes also had a reputation in the church
- ❖ I believe he was a member of the same church that Gaius belongs to
- ❖ John wrote a letter to the church about Diotrephes **(9a)**
- ❖ John was going to confront him when he arrived **(10)**

What was Diotrephes guilty of?

- **He loved to have the preeminence in the church (9b)**

- ✚ He desired and worked at being first, in charge, noticed

- ✚ He had an issue of pride, self-gratification
- ✚ He wanted the glory and would take it from the Lord
- ✚ He may have been an appointed leader or a self-appointed leader

- He brought malicious, unjustified charges against John (10a)
- He would not welcome traveling preachers to the church (10b)
- He dismissed those in the church that did (10c)

Six Signs of Church Bullies Thom Rainer

- ✚ They have strong personalities.
- ✚ They are highly opinionated.
- ✚ They are terrible listeners.
- ✚ They build unhealthy alliances.
- ✚ They murmur and gossip.
- ✚ They do most of their toxic work in darkness.

- ❖ Intimidation is a real problem in churches; bullies wanting their way
- ❖ Diotrephes was “a contradiction to the truth of the Gospel”
- ❖ John warns us not to imitate evil, but imitate what is good
- ❖ Build a strong relationship with Christ and you will do good

■ Demetrius: A Reputation of Dependability (12)

- ❖ All we know about Demetrius is in this letter
- ❖ John is introducing Demetrius to Gaius, possibly as one to help
- ❖ John was going out on a limb to recommend someone
- ❖ John was taking a chance that his own reputation could be hurt

Close (13-14)

- ❖ What is your reputation?

✪ Faithfulness, dependability or distrust

Close service with **3 John 4** (put this on the screen after invitation)
 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth”