

“The Pride of Diotrephes”
3 John 1:9-10

- *An introduction to Diotrephes:*
 - He is not walking according to the Word; he was not loving according to the Word; he was not being faithful to generosity according to the Word.
 - Diotrephes is not rebuked because of false teaching, he is being rebuked because of his behavior, which can be incredibly damaging.
 - Diotrephes is on a power trip. He is attempting to gain influence, not by godliness (1 Timothy 3:1-7), but instead by destroying people’s trust in godly leaders, so that he can get his way.
- *The pride of Diotrephes:*
 - “He likes to put himself first”:
 - *Matthew 20:26-27:* Greatness in the Christian walk is found in servanthood not in taking power. Jesus came to serve and lay down His life to glorify God. We have been called to do the same.
 - *1 Peter 5:5-6:* We have been called to clothe ourselves with humility. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. God exalts humble people in His timing.
 - *Proverbs 27:2:* We should never praise ourselves. We have been called to let others praise us, namely God.
 - *Proverbs 25:27-28:* We leave ourselves vulnerable to attack when we are without self-control/seek our own glory.
 - “He does not acknowledge the authority of God’s Word/godly leaders”:
 - *Hebrews 13:17:* When we resist biblical authority we make our lives and the lives of our leaders joyless, which has zero advantage.
 - *James 4:6-7:* Without submitting to God we cannot resist sin or the Devil. That is, when we don’t submit to God and His Word we will walk in defeat, not victory.
 - *Ephesians 5:20-21:* When we submit in the way that God has called us to submit, we glorify Him, but ultimately we are submitting to Christ.
 - “He is talking wicked nonsense against brothers in Christ”:
 - *Exodus 20:16/Proverbs 6:19:* The Lord hates those who breathe out lies and sow discord among brothers.
 - *Titus 3:10:* There is no reason to assume that someone is a Christian that stirs up division. People should never participate in divisions that are not based on the Word of God.
 - “He is refusing to welcome other brothers”:
 - *1 John 4:20-21 & 1 John 3:16-18:* If we see a brother in need and we have the ability to help with that need and don’t do it, how can the love of God be in us?
 - “He puts faithful brothers out of the church”:
 - *Proverbs 17:13:* If anyone returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.
 - *Isaiah 5:20-21:* Woe to those who call evil good and good evil. Woe to those who are wise in their own sight.

Worship: Speak O Lord (The Gettys)

There is a Fountain (Citizens)