

III John 1:9-14 **The Evils of Discord**

Introduction:

Discord is one of those evils sometimes found in the church. God hates discord and strife, but He loves harmony and peace, but those who spread discord will be punished by the Lord. Those who spread discord within the church should be disciplined swiftly by the Leaders. Elders must not ignore it; God will hold us all accountable who ignore or promote discord in any way. Proverbs states it emphatically that there are six things the Lord hates; yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: “Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.” (Prov. 6:16-18)

I. A Major Problem in the Church – v.9-10

A. Mentioning names of those who are faithful and unfaithful.

B. Examining the Problem

1. Diotrephes desired to be first.
2. Diotrephes was “gossiping maliciously” v.10; (I Tim. 3:13,15; Prov. 20:19; II Cor. 12:20; II Tim. 3:3; Titus 2:3)
3. Diotrephes refuses to welcome the brethren – v. 10b (Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:12; I Pet. 4:9)
4. Diotrephes insisted that others in the church to follow his lead – v.10c; Isa. 14:14; Phil. 2:6-8

II. Correcting the Problem in the Church – v. 11-14

A. Exposing evil deeds – v. 10 “I will call attention to his deeds”

1. Elders have a responsibility to correct the unruly – Turn To: I Thess. 5:12-18
2. Do not imitate evil behavior – See I John 2:3-6

B. Commending Demetrius

1. He had a good reputation – v. 12
2. He imitated the apostle John – Eph. 5:1; I Thess. 1:6; II Thess. 3:7,9; Heb. 6:12; 13:7

Conclusion:

1. *John does not forget his friends there and therefore sends his greetings of peace – v. 14; John 20:19,21,26*
2. *John’s closing remarks are ones of peace in the midst of strife and discord- Phil. 4:7*