

# **The Man who Loved the Preeminence**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: 3 John 9-14.

B. There have always been people who have loved power and preeminence. (Genesis 4:23, 10:9, Judges 9, Esther, Daniel 4, Acts 12, Matthew 23:1, 20:20)

C. Diotrephes loves the preeminence. He desired to usurp the place of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 1:18)

D. Diotrephes refused to give hospitality.

## II. Personal ambition.

A. Diotrephes had his own authority.

B. He may have been part of the Greek aristocracy.

C. John warned that Diotrephes would become an issue in the church if he came.

## III. Perverted action.

A. Diotrephes was guilty of...

1. Craving against the believers with a malicious word.

2. Refusing hospitality.

## IV. John encourages his reader to follow good patterns.

A. Doing good is evidence of the new birth.

B. We know whether one is a Christian by the moral test.

C. John offers Demetrius as a positive example.

1. He has a good reputation.

2. He matches up with the Word of God.

3. He has the commendation of other Christian leaders.

**Application Questions:**

1. Why is it important to be aware that power hungry people creep up in the church all the time?

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2. How should we respond to people who want to usurp power?

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3. Who is a positive pattern that you can follow? What characteristics do they model exceptionally well?

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