

## Why Was Diotrephes Wrong?

### I. Introduction:

A. People often try to find Scriptures to prove their points and twist passages along the way (i.e. **Mark 12:18-27**).

1. It is not good to lack proper knowledge (**Hosea 4:1-6** and **I Corinthians 15:34**).
2. There are eternal consequences for twisting Scriptures (**II Peter 3:15-18**).

B. We are going to discuss Diotrephes today, which is an example in which some err and do teach from the following (**III John 1:9-10**) these false doctrines...

1. Some err concerning Diotrephes to teach that it is wrong to cease fellowship, practice discipline, etc. upon the erring. That is false (**Matthew 18:15-17**, **I Corinthians 5:1-13**, **II Thessalonians 3:6-15**, **I Timothy 6:3-5**, and **II Timothy 3:1-5**).
2. Some err concerning Diotrephes to teach that you must receive anyone who comes to you professing to be “a member of the church”. That is false (**Matthew 7:13-20**, **Galatians 2:1-5**, **Ephesians 5:6-11**, **Titus 3:9-11**, **I John 4:1**, and **II John 1:9-11**).
3. Some err concerning Diotrephes to teach that you cannot speak “negatively” about erring saints. That is false (**Matthew 16:21-23**, **Romans 16:17-18**, **I Timothy 1:19-20**, **II Timothy 2:14-18**, and **II Timothy 4:10-15**).
4. Some err concerning Diotrephes to teach that it is wrong, even unloving, to aggressively and pointedly contest error/sin/etc. That is false (**Matthew 15:1-14**, **Matthew 16:1-4**, **Matthew 23:1-31**, **Luke 11:37-54**, **Luke 17:3-4**, **John 2:13-17**, **Galatians 2:11-17**, **Galatians 3:1-3**, **I Timothy 5:20**, **Titus 1:5-14**, and **Jude 1:3-4**).

### II. Body: Consider What Was Actually Wrong Concerning Diotrephes (**III John 1:9-10**).

A. Diotrephes was wrong to desire the preeminence (**Mark 10:35-45**).

1. Faithful saints are servants one to another (**Galatians 5:13**).
2. Faithful saints elevate others above themselves (**Romans 12:10** and **Philippians 2:1-11**).
3. This especially applies to “preachers” who erringly get elevated all too often (**I Corinthians 3:1-7**; **4:6-7**).

B. Diotrephes was wrong for not receiving faithful saints (**John 13:20**).

1. Receiving the faithful is equal to receiving Christ (**Matthew 10:40-42**).
2. On the other hand... (**Luke 10:1-16**).
3. What did Jesus say the judgment was against those whom did not receive the Apostles (**Mark 6:7-11**)?

C. Diotrephes was wrong for prating against the faithful with malicious words (**Proverbs 16:28** and **James 4:11-12**).

1. Diotrephes resembled that which God hates (**Proverbs 6:16-19**).
2. This was not a new problem (**Jeremiah 9:1-4**), nor can you expect it to cease today (**II Timothy 3:13**).

D. Diotrephes was wrong going beyond all of that which we have discussed, to the point of even forbidding and casting out the faithful which tells us he hated workers of the truth (**Isaiah 66:5**).

1. People like that carnally think they are so much better than everyone else (**Isaiah 65:5**).
2. Sadly, people have long been willing to compromise the truth to stay amongst men such as Diotrephes (**John 9:1-34**).

III. Conclusion: Don't follow the evil examples you see, such as Diotrephes (**III John 1:11**).