

Sermon Handout

Do What is Good

III John 11-14

- I. **A Transition of Contrast** v. 11
 - a. Bridging examples of good and bad behavior
 - i. The good example of Gaius v. 5
 - ii. The bad example of Diotrephes vv. 9-10
 - iii. The good example of Demetrius v. 12
 - b. Shunning evil and loving the good
 - c. Actions reflect our relationship to God
 - i. He who does good is of God
 - ii. He who does evil does not know God *cf.* I Jn 1:5

- II. **The Testimony of Demetrius** v. 12
 - a. He is most likely the bearer of the letter *cf.* Rom 16:1-2
 - i. Diotrephes does not welcome John's associates v. 10
 - ii. Gaius is urged to counter Diotrephes' bad behavior
 - b. His reputation among men v. 12a

"All men" a reference to those who know him where John now is
 - c. The testimony of the truth itself v. 12b
 - i. His behavior aligns with the truth *cf.* v. 11
 - ii. Contrast to denial of fellowship with God *see* I Jn 1:6, 7
 - d. John's own testimony ("we witness")
 - i. Given together with church leaders where John now resides
 - ii. "**You** know" our witness is true *cf.* Jn 21:24

"Our witness" John with his inner circle of associates
Here John calls on Gaius to trust him *cf.* I Cor 4:3-4
 - e. Testimony of three witnesses Dt 19:15; II Cor 13:1; Heb 10:28; I Jn 5:8

- III. **Personal Encouragement** vv. 13-14
 - a. Christianity is a personal religion (unlike paganism or secularism)

It is about our relationship to God and to other people
 - b. Personal contact is the primary means of loving one another
Letters, email, text – may play a role but cannot replace it
Greet the "loved ones" **by name.**
 - c. We are to be concerned with the peace of our brethren
 - i. The peace of God Rom 5:1; I Thess 5:23; Phil 4:6-7
 - ii. Peace within the family (both nuclear and church families)