

**“Beware of Power Grabbers”**

**3 John 1: 1-14**

**May 19, 2019**

**A question to ponder:**

**Who is the head of the Church?**

***JESUS!!***

**Colossians 1: 18**

**Ephesians 1: 22**

**Not a human, pastor, pope,  
bishop, etc.**

**Who has God raised up to thwart power grabbers?**

**ELDERS - A plurality of Elders!!**

**1 Timothy 3 gives qualifications for Elders**

**Titus 1: 5 and 1 Peter 5: 1 speaks of plurality**

**Why a plurality?**

**This is to protect against depravity of a man seeking preeminence**

## Verse 1 - 4

**Walking in the truth thwarts  
power grabbers**

# What is walking in the truth?

Obeying what the Scriptures teach

## Who is Gaius?

He is a seasoned vet, proven in the trenches with Paul -

***FAITHFUL*** and ***HOSPITABLE!***

## Verse 2 misuse:

Some misapply verse 2 to validate health and wealth teaching

John is praying for Gaius' material and physical health to match his spiritual health

It is okay to pray that your material and physical needs are met, *however*, the most important thing is that ***“your soul prospers”***

## Introspection:

What would it be like if your physical health mirrored your soul health?

How is your soul health proven?

*By your life walk*

Are you following the Master “*ALL OUT*”? If so, your soul will prosper

Who is on the throne of your life?

## Verse 5 - 8

**Evidence that you are not  
a power grabber**



Evidence that “I” is not on the throne:

FAITHFULNESS - trustworthy, can be relied on, no procrastination, keeps commitments

HOSPITALITY - what you do for the brethren and strangers; open home, open life

Evidence that “I” is not on the throne:

GENEROSITY - “*send them forward in a manner worthy of God*”; support them!!

INVOLVEMENT - “*receive such*” - “*fellow workers*”; some go, some support - same reward!

Matthew 10: 40-42

**REMEMBER:** Hold loosely! It's not yours; you are simply a steward of God's property

**STEWARDS:** Fellow workers for the truth; on the same team - *God's team!*

When we finally realize ***“IT'S NOT MINE”***, Jesus is on the throne of your life!!

## Verse 9 - 11

**Diotrephes was a power grabber**

**“I”** is definitely enthroned!

**What is behind one seeking preeminence and power?**

***PRIDE!***

God *hates* pride - **Proverbs 6: 6-19**

When a believer walks in pride, ***they are removing Jesus from the throne of their lives!***

The results of **“I”** enthroned is discord, frustration, life is a mess!

Example of ultimate pride is  
Satan's "*I Wills*" - Isaiah 14: 12-15

Diotrephes, the dictator, can ruin a  
church!

Diotrephes must be confronted -  
*this takes courage!*

**John - *“I will call to mind his deeds”***

**Diotrephes had to answer for his behavior!**

**Do not ignore a Diotrephes, he must be exposed - *the very reason for a plurality of Elders!***

## Verse 12

**Demetrius - a message of hope**



**Demetrius probably hand  
carried the letter to Gaius to  
be read before the body**

## Verse 13 - 14

**John's farewell,  
until we meet again**

**John plans on visiting to deal with  
this issue face to face**

**John wishes peace upon this body -  
*something they desperately  
needed!***

CONCLUSION: *Beware of Power Grabbers*

Diotrephes, prideful dictators and their prevention - *a plurality of Elders!*

Methods used to main control:  
*INTIMIDATION!!*

# Diotrephes is an example of one who spurns God's rule:

- 1) Does not accept Jesus as head of His Church
- 2) Uses intimidation to deal with opposition
- 3) Is accountable to no one

**YOUR PROTECTION:** Be a Berean, know the truth of the Scriptures, and flee false teachers!

***BEWARE OF POWER  
GRABBERS***