

# The Influence of a Godly Teacher

Text – 3 John

**Introduction:** There are many great leaders in the Bible. We often look at their lives to learn from and exemplify their godly character. **There are also wrong examples from which we can learn.** Let's consider the example of one such man in Scripture.

## **A GODLY TEACHER IS A SERVANT.**

Third John tells us of a man named Diotrephes. From his poor example, we can examine some positive leadership characteristics we should have present in our lives if we desire to have a Christ-like influence. We see in 3 John 9 that Diotrephes desired to have the preeminence. A good servant knows his place and is not concerned about receiving the recognition.

## **A GODLY TEACHER IS TEACHABLE.**

We are told in vs. 9 that Diotrephes did not receive John's writing.

I read about a child who came home from school after his first day at kindergarten. His mother asked, "What did you learn today?" The child replied, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

Do you have the attitude that you already know it all, or do you have a spirit of receiving correction? The truth is that if a teacher does not have a teachable spirit, it can sometimes be absent in the life of his students.

## **A GODLY TEACHER IS JUST.**

A father is commanded in the Bible not to provoke his child to wrath. This is a good command for every adult who works with children to follow. Diotrephes was a man who unjustly used malicious words against the church leaders.

## **A GODLY TEACHER IS CONTENT.**

The great enemy of contentment is comparison. 2 Cor. 10:12b warns us, *"...but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* Simply stated, Diotrephes was a malcontent (grouch, complainer).

## **A GODLY TEACHER IS HOSPITABLE.**

To be hospitable requires a humble, servant's spirit. Perhaps that is why Diotrephes was not hospitable. We read in 3 John 10b: *"...neither doth he himself receive the brethren...."* Could it be that he thought too highly of himself? Do not be so busy meeting your own needs that you miss the opportunity to serve others.

How is your influence? Is it expanding? Is it what the Lord wants it to be? Let's take an inventory of our leadership characteristics and determine if we need to stock up on some **godly leadership** characteristics.