

What Would People Say About You?

3 John 1-12

Introduction:

- A. What would the people who know you best say about you to someone else?
- B. Having a good reputation is something we should all strive for (Prov. 22:1; Eccl. 7:1).
- C. In this letter from John, we have three different men mentioned by name, each with something different said about them. Let's look at what John had to say about each of these men.

Gaius the Generous

- A. Gaius was beloved by John (vs. 1, 2, 5, 11).
- B. Gaius was faithful (vs. 3-4).
- C. Gaius was generous and hospitable (vs. 5-8; Lk. 8:1-3; Gal. 6:6).

Diotrephes the Proud

- A. Diotrephes wanted to be the most important (v. 9; Mt. 23:6-12; Mk. 9:33-37).
- B. Diotrephes didn't respect authority (v. 9; I Jn. 4:6).
- C. Diotrephes treated other believers poorly (v. 10; Prov. 10:18; Eph. 4:29-31).

Demetrius the Example

- A. Demetrius was the example John wanted Gaius to follow (v. 11).
- B. Demetrius received a good testimony from everyone (v. 12).

What Kind of Reputation Do We Have Before Others?

- A. Would others say we are generous and giving or selfish and self-serving (Phil. 2:3-4; Rom. 12:13).
- B. Would others say we look to be involved or to criticize those who are involved (I Cor. 12:12-31)?
- C. Would others say we are faithful to the Lord and His Word or that we reject the Word (Jam. 1:22-25; Matt. 23:3)?
- D. Would others say our lives are worthy of imitation or better left unnoticed (I Cor. 11:1)?

Conclusion:

- A. If our name was mentioned before others, what would people say about us?
- B. We may not know a whole lot about Gaius or Demetrius but what we do know says a whole lot about them.
- C. Will we choose to live and be like Gaius and Demetrius or Diotrephes?