

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

3 John 9-10

Covert Rejection of Christ

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John's Message Rejected

3 John 9 (HCSB)
I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who **loves to have first place** among them, **does not receive us**.

- John was Christ's authoritative apostle
- "receive" is "welcome" *epidechomai*
- John 13:20 shows how serious this is
- Only Christ is truly "first"

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Evil Words Spout Babble

3 John 10a (HCSB)
This is why, if I come, I will remind him of the works he is doing, **slandering us with malicious words**.

- "slandering" is *phluareo* which means "to overflow with chatter"
- Diotrephe_s uttered malicious words to push people away from the apostle John

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Expelling the Orthodox

3 John 10b (HCSB)
 And he is not satisfied with that! He not only **refuses to welcome** the brothers himself, but he even stops those who want to do so and **expels them from the church**

- He does not “*epidechomai*” (welcome) apostolic messengers
- He “stops” any who love the truth
- He “*ekballo_*” (expels) those who want to welcome those John sent!

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Implications and Applications

- Those who reject any who proclaim the biblical gospel reject Christ
- Only Christ is preeminent
- We must speak sound words and never nonsense

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Welcome Christ’s Messengers

Luke 10:16 (NASB)
 “The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”

- “Rejects” means to set aside or get rid of
- The apostles who are true apostles were taught and appointed by Christ
- Our response to the teachings of Christ and His apostles reveals our status with God

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Identify Christ's Messengers

Acts 17:11 (HCSB)

The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since **they welcomed the message** with eagerness and **examined** the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

- Paul was rejected in Thessalonica but welcomed here
- "Examined" means to discern accurately to come to a correct judgment

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Spiritual Blindness

John 9:34 (ESV)

They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And **they cast him out.**

- Religious authorities cast out a man Jesus healed
- The man comes to faith and now truly "sees"
- Hard hearts reject the truth because of a morally culpable spiritual blindness

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Only Christ Is Preeminent

Colossians 1:18 (ESV)

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in everything he might be preeminent.**

- Any other person or being that claims this status is false and idolatrous
- Christ is preeminent in creation and in the church, the new creation
- See John 5:23-24

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Teach Sound Words

1 Timothy 6:2a – 4a (ESV)

Teach and urge these things. If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.

- “Teach” and “urge” (exhort) are imperative
- The Greek construction shows that the *If-Then* implies a real condition

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Useless Disputes

1 Timothy 6:4b – 5 (ESV)

He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

- False teaching was making them rich!

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