**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr February 14, 2021**

**When Good Leaders Go Bad**

3 John 1-15

**Key Truth:** Love must be the foundation of the Christian life.

**The Key Personnel:**

**John:** The elder and mentor.

**Gaius:** The disciple and lover of God and people.

**Diotrephes:** The dictatorial leader.

**Demetrius:** The disciple who is known by all for his character and love.

**John’s Reason For Writing:**

1. To thank Gaius for showing hospitality to the

traveling brothers.

2. To rebuke Diotrephes bad behavior.

3. To commend Demetrius Christian character.

**When Good Leaders Go Bad: The Signs of The Downfall**

1. A Big Ego.

2. Rejects Biblical Authority.

3. Defamation of others character.

4. Abuse of Power.

5. Leads with fear and intimidation.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Don’t imitate bad behavior. Don’t pursue power or authority. Imitate Jesus Christ and allow His love to permeate every area of your life.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

In 3 John 1:9, John specifically points out a church leader named Diotrephes as someone who “loves to be first.” Jesus gave us a completely different example of what it means to be a leader, by putting other’s first. Read the following verses and write down what it takes to be a great leader in God’s kingdom.

Mark 9:35

Mark 10:43-44

Luke 22:26

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:19: God asks us to serve others for a very specific purpose. What does 1 Cor. 9:19 tell us about God’s purpose for us in being godly leaders and serving others?

It can be tempting to serve God to receive praise or credit for our actions, and we often are less motivated to be a servant when we’re treated like one. Read the following verses and write down the different ways we can glorify God in our service to others.

Matthew 5:16

John 15:8

1 Peter 2:12

Read Philippians 2:1-11: Why are Christians called to abandon selfish ambition for the work of the gospel?

Do you have any tendencies that resemble Diotrephes’ leadership style? How about Jesus’ leadership style?