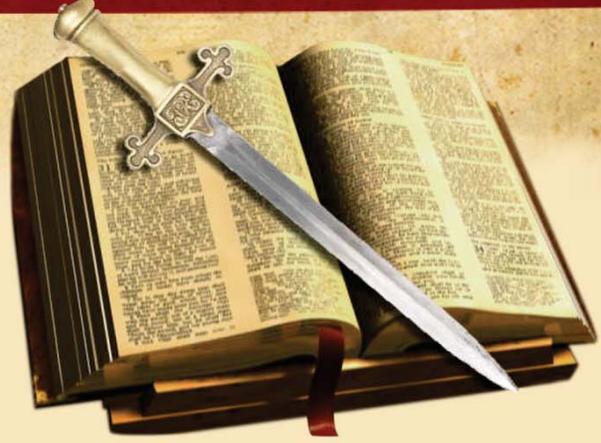


# Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



## 3 JOHN

### *There's One In Every Church!*

*(The Principle of: Controlling Pseudo-Leaders and the Authority of True Eldership)*

3 John 9-10

You may not recognize his name, but you'll know him instantly by John's declaration, *"he loves to be first!"* His name was Diotrephes...the *"alpha-male, take-charge, my-way-or-the-highway"* church pseudo-leader. In his mind, he was right and everybody else was wrong...including John! Apparently, he must have had a prominent level of authority in the church where Gaius attended. (The fact that the apostle addressed his letter to Gaius instead of Diotrephes tells the story of who John trusted.) Furthermore, this self-proclaimed monarch of the church refused John's letters, rejected his messengers and kicked people out of the church if they agreed with John! Thus John responded, *"For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does."* ***The only way to deal with controlling pseudo-leaders is with the strong authority of true eldership!***

They're called pseudo-leaders...men and women who take it upon themselves to run the church according to their own agenda, regardless of what true spiritual authority says. And every local church has at least one, or maybe more! They flatter for gain, spread rumors, intimidate, and execute power plays. But they don't resemble true leadership at all (*Ezek. 34:2-5; 1 Pet. 5:2-3*)! The pastor who wants to just "love everybody" and "be at peace" will never survive. ***Remember, John may have been the "apostle of love," but he was no wimp!*** He and his brother were called the "Sons of Thunder!" He was that intense disciple who wanted to call down fire on those who rejected Jesus (*Luke 9:54*). ***Pseudo-Leaders must be met head-on by true elders in Christ's Church. If not, they'll destroy the local church!***

Associate Pastor, can you give input to your senior pastor without trying to control his final decision? If not, you may be a controlling pseudo-leader! Chairman of the Deacons, are you open to other ways than just yours to accomplish a task? If not, you may be a controlling pseudo-leader! Minister of Music, are you willing to change your order of worship at the pastor's request? If not, you may be a controlling pseudo-leader! Yes, there's one in every church. And only the godly authority of true eldership can stop them. ***But most importantly, make sure YOU are not one of these controlling pseudo-leaders! If you just have to control something...try controlling your own spirit (Prov. 25:28)!***

***Next: The Kingdom of God in Jude - Life's Final Benediction!***

