



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 30, 2009

Heart to Heart...

His name is Diotrephes. He had such a feeling of importance that he ran the church! In fact, he refused to acknowledge John's authority as an apostle and his writings (III John 9-10). His power hunger and control reached to the depth that if someone received certain brethren, he would put them out of the church! John promised when he arrived that he was going to deal with this arrogant brother.

Some people love the position of authority and when they are put in such a position, they throw their weight around freely. Filled with pride, self-willed, they take charge of everyone and everything, channeling it all through them. We see this in elderships, ministers and certain brethren. Nothing pleases them more than having others bend to their will!

What a difference we see between Diotrephes and the apostle Paul. Paul was a man of real weight, yet he did not employ it. Paul reminded the Corinthian brethren that he did not want to use severity if he came to them, but his authority was given for building others up, not tearing them down (II Corinthians 13:10). Paul reminded the Thessalonians that there was no pretext for greed, power or glory seeking because they were apostles of Christ Jesus (I Thessalonians 2:6-7). Paul saw Christ as in charge. Paul sought the will of God and in many matters, the Lord had to take care of things, not himself. That's why Paul could say, "***Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.***" (I Corinthians 11:1). The work of our Lord is far too important for any of us to strike a pose, develop an attitude or think we can throw our weight around. Elders are commanded not to lord over those allotted to their charge but be an example (I Peter 5:3). Preachers are to be examples in love, conduct, speech, faith and purity to believers (I Timothy 4:12). Deacons are servants to Christ's body (I Timothy 3:13). Christ Jesus the Lord is the only one capable of running the show but there are those 'Diotrephes' who think differently. Think about it!!!

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