

Dealing with Opposition in the Church

The shepherd, the wolf, and two sheep.

Sermon Questions

1. As John writes 1, 2, and 3 John, his opponents are those within the church or without? _____
2. Diotrephes, rather than a Christ-like leader, was one who put _____ first.
3. A good leader is a man who can command authority AND be _____ authority.
4. What should we think about putting people out of the church?
 - i. It's always wrong.
 - ii. It is right, but there must be a fair trial with neutral arbiters.
 - iii. It is right, but the standard must be Christ's word and not the opinions of selfish leaders.
5. Gaius is in danger of being put out of the church for helping these traveling preachers. (Yes/No)
6. The difference between Diotrephes and Gaius is a difference of _____.
7. Righteousness is the product of the new birth, not the cause of it. (Yes/No)
8. Righteousness, love, and faith are all products of the new birth, not the cause of it. (Yes/No)
9. If there is little fruit, or bad fruit, the solution is to behold _____.
10. The testimony of the truth and of others helps us to _____ the brother and expose the other.
11. This letter reminds us to be focused upon _____, living for the sake of the name.

Discussion/Meditation Questions

1. Why is understanding the nature of the new birth so important for our ability to exercise discernment in the church?
2. How would you explain to a non-Christian that the church is welcoming AND there is a clear distinction between insiders and outsiders?
3. Can you think of (or research) at least two passages that speak of dealing with issues of sin quickly rather than letting it fester? Are their issues in your life that need immediate attention?
4. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon? Share this with another brother or sister in the fellowship.

Extras for the Children

What song did you enjoy the most today? _____

What did you learn about God today? _____

What words did you not know today? _____

