

Who am I in my spiritual journey when it comes to what I do in the local congregation?

Our spiritual journey should lead us in a direction that is exactly opposite of the life of like Diotrephes. Sadly, this brother did things to hinder the growth of the church and the love that could exist within it. John identified Diotrephes as one who promoted that which was evil. "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God." (3 John 1:9-11) Likely, Diotrephes did not work like Gaius, but he wanted to have the love and respect that Gaius had in the church. He used his tongue and malicious words to do damage. When I asked, "Who am I in my spiritual journey when it comes to what I do in the local congregation?" I pray that the answer is not, I am Diotrephes.

Who am I in my spiritual journey when it comes to my daily influence?

God inspired John to write some positive things about a brother named Demetrius. "Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true." (3 John 1:12) "Having a good report" is another way of saying that he had been a good example for God. Demetrius had a good report of all men. The truth itself bore witness and gave Him a good report. There is no proof at all that this could be the case, but would it not be wonderful if this was the same Demetrius, who at first was a maker of idol gods in Ephesus? (Acts 19:24-29) Demetrius is a man who is certainly worthy of our imitation. We must learn to discern between good and evil, righteousness and wickedness and we must support and imitate those who are good and righteous. It was a wonderful thing that Demetrius had the witness of so many people that he was a righteous man. It was a much greater thing that Demetrius had the witness of the truth that he was a righteous man. Demetrius is a good example of what the truth requires in the life of one who would faithfully serve God. John had much more he wanted to say, but his desire was to say it face-to-face with these brethren. "I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name." (3 John 1:13-14) John certainly said enough in these few verses to remind us who we need to be in our spiritual journey.

It is God's desire that we learn the difference between good and evil and follow that which is good. To follow that which is good, we must obey the gospel and live a faithful Christian life. To become a Christian you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ as Lord (Acts 8:37) and be baptized to be saved. (1 Peter 3:21) As a Christian, always follow that which is good. "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God." (3 John 1:11)

***By Charles Box, Walnut Street Church of Christ, 306 Walnut Street,
Greenville, Alabama 36037***