



Have you ever felt let down, disheartened, discouraged, or disillusioned by your church? Of course you have! Everyone who has ever been part of a church has experienced this! People get disappointed with their church all the time, primarily because of the **unrealistic expectations** we all carry through the doors of the church. We want everyone at church to always see “eye-to-eye” and for there to be no conflict. We hope church will be all harmony where only goodness rules the day. And you know, when we each get to Heaven, that is exactly how church will be (**Hebrews 12:23**). But, here on earth, **churches are very imperfect** places because they are made up of imperfect people like us! Here’s the reality of church life: **Where sinners saved by grace gather together in a place, you gotta bring a lot of grace to the place because of the sinners**, starting with you and me! Okay, then how would God have us respond to the realities of church conflicts, disagreements and difficulties? Here are some specific things we can do, and also not do, to **make church better**.

1. (vv. 1-8) Imitate Gaius ...

2. (vv. 9-10) Learn from the bad examples of Diotrephes ...

3. (vv. 11-12) Follow the good example of Demetrius ...

4. (vv. 13-15) Respond to the heart felt words of John ...

TODAY’S TAKEAWAYS

1. Realize that Jesus commands you ...

2. To make church better ...

3. A Better Church makes for ...

FOR THOUGHT AND TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John’s message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don’t have to cover them all.

1. Read aloud **3 John**. To put it mildly, Diotrephes was a problem in the church and is a completely negative example of “making church about me.” What are some of the ways we tend to “make church about me,” and what are the results (upon ourselves & the church) of such a selfish approach? Being honest, did you see a little bit of Diotrephes in your own heart? How would Jesus have you change that?

2. Read aloud **v.11** from two different translations. John writes this and relates it to the context of life in the local church. What is the point(s) he is making? Do you want to bring good or evil into the lives of your brothers & sisters at church? How do we bring evil into church? What can we do to promote good within the church?

3. Demetrius was quite a guy! Everyone at church spoke only good about him. They also knew him well, which makes having such a reputation truly remarkable. What can each of us do to become more like this amazing Christian? Why would Jesus want you to be a positive difference-maker at NCFE? How will you do it?

4. Review the key words & phrases of John in **vv. 13-15**. How can helping NCFE be a better church cause you to be a better you? Who will be blessed if those sorts of things happen more & more?