

3 John 9–15 (CSB)

⁹I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have first place among them, does not receive our authority. ¹⁰This is why, if I come, I will remind him of the works he is doing, slandering us with malicious words. And he is not satisfied with that! He not only refuses to welcome fellow believers, but he even stops those who want to do so and expels them from the church. ¹¹Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God. ¹²Everyone speaks well of Demetrius—even the truth itself. And we also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true. ¹³I have many things to write you, but I don't want to write to you with pen and ink. ¹⁴I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. ¹⁵Peace to you. The friends send you greetings. Greet the friends by name.

Matthew 7:21–23 (CSB)

²¹"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' ²³Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. **Depart from me, you lawbreakers!**'"

3 John 11 (CSB)

¹¹Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

What patterns of self-deception do we need to be aware of?

1. Am I the Sovereign or the Servant?

3 John 9 (CSB) I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, **who loves to have first place among them**, does not receive our authority.

2. Is ambition becoming arrogance?

3 John 9 (CSB) I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have first place among them, **does not receive our authority**.

3. Is there criticism without merit?

3 John 10a (CSB) This is why, if I come, I will remind him of the works he is doing, **slandering us with malicious words....**

4. Do I exclude genuine believers or drive out genuine believers?

3 John 10b (CSB) ...He not only refuses to **welcome fellow believers**, but he even stops those who want to do so and **expels them from the church**.

3 John 13-15

¹³I have many things to write you, but I don't want to write to you with pen and ink. ¹⁴I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. ¹⁵Peace to you. The friends send you greetings. Greet the friends by name.

For every Alaskan Challenge:

This week, don't just confess the right Jesus—imitate the real Jesus by laying down power, rejecting self-deception, and choosing the costly good of love, truth, and faithfulness.